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MACLEAN'S



MAR.
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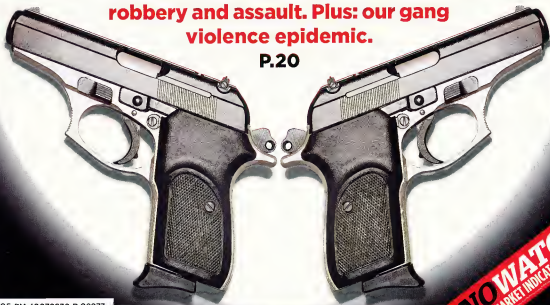


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THE MOST **DANGEROUS** CITIES IN CANADA

**Who's got the highest rate of murder,
robbery and assault. Plus: our gang
violence epidemic.**

P.20



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ECONOWATCH
IS TIGER WOODS A MARKET INDICATOR? P.38



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Is now the right time to buy a new home?

Knowing the facts can help you decide.

Purchasing a new home is one of the most significant investments you will make in your lifetime. So it's understandable if you find it a daunting prospect – even if it isn't your first time. And in today's economic climate, conflicting opinions can only add to the confusion.

The good news is that now may be a good time to buy a home. By following a few simple suggestions and seeking some expert advice, you can address your own concerns – and help ensure that your future in your new home is more comfortable and financially secure.

Know what you can afford

Buyers often don't accurately estimate how much they can afford to pay for their home. The online "How Much Can You Afford?" calculator at www.rbcroyalbank.com/mortgages can help you understand what that figure should be. Simply enter your income and expense information and click "submit". You can also enter various interest rates and amortization periods in order to fully explore your options.

Explore your down payment options

You will have a number of down payment options to choose from, ranging from a conventional mortgage with a 20% down payment to a low down payment mortgage which requires a minimum 5% down. Low down payment mortgages require mortgage default insurance, which can be paid up front or added to the amount you borrow.

The interest rate is only part of the solution

Home buyers often focus on interest rates when choosing a mortgage. While rates are important, the overall solution based on the mortgage type, payment structure, terms and flexibility will have a greater impact on how much you pay for your home in the long run. A fixed rate mortgage lets you lock in your interest rate for the term of your mortgage, giving you the peace of mind of knowing how much principal and interest you're paying for the entire term. A variable rate mortgage lets you take advantage of changing interest rates.



Choose a payment schedule that suits you

Paying off your mortgage sooner will save you interest costs, while increasing your amortization period gives you more room to manage your payments. But it's important to know how much more an extended amortization may cost you. A 35-year amortization can increase your interest costs by as much as 50% over the life of your mortgage compared to a 25-year amortization. But no matter which amortization period you select when you apply for your mortgage, you can always re-evaluate it when you renew.

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GETTING TOUGH on crime in 2008 was fine, but more of the same now isn't the answer.

A new political ritual

Last year, our inaugural "Most dangerous cities in Canada" issue sparked strong responses across the country, mainly from readers who either wanted to hear at their own discretion or to criticize, as they were working hard to find solutions. We are pleased this week to find ourselves *annual* of them (see page 38). This year, however, the spectre of gang violence has stalled the conversation on crime from city hall to the House of Commons. The rising tide of gang activity, especially in Western Canada, suggests a new nationwide approach is necessary. *Quanta's* answer is unfortunately inadequate.

Stephen Harper's immediate response to Vancouver's recent gang problems was to launch a new set of amendments to the Criminal Code. Included are automatic first-degree murder charges for homicides connected with gang activity plus new sentencing provisions for drive-by shootings and assaults on police. The next day his government introduced a drug crime bill with sharply higher sentences for slavery of offences. All this sounds harsh, it is. Around this time last year Ottawa announced that as Tedling Klenz, a drug lord, received royal pardon. The legislation, the centerpiece of the Conservative anti-gang agenda, included earlier sentencing for drug crimes as well as for repeat offenders. The drug crime bill is the recent legislation that sat on the Order Paper, but then got disappeared with the fall election.

We supported last year's omnibus crime bill in particular because of its focus on dangerous offenders and the fact it served as notice to gangs and the public that the gov-

Canada already has laws in place to deal with crime, from shootings and assaults of police. The first-degree murder charge is similarly repetitive. As for the drug ban, it proposes to strip away two years' minimum sentence for selling drugs near schools to "any other public place(s) most frequented by persons under the age of 18." The problem with drug dealing is the product, not the location. This is a new, useless provision created solely to benefit the government's tough on crime persona and put the opposition on the spot.

All of which leaves us greatly concerned that the Conservative campaign agenda has become some sort of annual political ritual. An announcement of higher minimum sentence for some crimes *du jour* is followed by the Prime Minister's assertion that his opponents will be unable to support the changes because they are soft on crime. The opposition then dutifully lines up in support for fear of appearing deaf to the complaints of crime victims. Endless in sequence.

The obvious problem with this bit of glib self-reassurance is the nothing-over-change hypothesis: private interests get longer and longer. If the government could prove (it is a successful approach) to conducting crime, it might make sense. But such an approach hasn't worked in the United States despite years of experience. And it is not likely to work here either. A focus on sentencing may be one part of a solution to getting violence, but it's not the whole story. If the larger government has any other ideas on how to sicde organized crime, now is the time to let us know about them.

[illegible]

UNREAL ESTATE

THE "BOMBING TRUTH" you mention in your story, "The shocking truth about the value of your home" (Business, March 2), is that home prices are going to drop by 26 percent. This is less than shocking when we recall, as Kohnsien, R.C. In 1994 we built near three bedrooms for \$164,000, which included the price of the lot. Now years later we built again, an equally modest three bedrooms home, the new putting in a huge amount of our own labour. Total cash cost? Exactly double at \$320,000. A price drop of 50 percent would be appropriate, at least unless our children and so many other young people to actually own their own home without having to win the lottery to do so.

Dianne Shukert, Kelowna, B.C.

ALAN KASSAB, the lead subject in your story, continued to purchase a \$1.5 million condo. He has not been able to sell his apartment and reduced the asking price by \$120,000. Thus, virtually all the factual information we are supplied to support the contention that "market values are plummeting" Kassab's bank "wouldn't even consider" giving him a \$1.5 million mortgage or would "give him a mortgage for more than the property was worth." I would hope not. Let's get real, people. Please be declining to move "resale value." Perhaps the real story should have been written a year ago about the "planning" con men and sense of buyers.

Red MacDonnell, Pittsburgh, Pa.

GIFTED GET SHAFTED
RACHEL MENDENHORN's article ("No more for gifted kids," Education, March 2) was right on the money. The needs of gifted children are not a priority for our education system. Not a giftedness well understood. Prof. Jack Goldberg's remarks in the story suggest that the only kind of giftedness that merits serious treatment is scientific genius, and anything less can be blithely ignored and wasted. I have been a student, a parent and a teacher in gifted programs. These are excellent programs for perhaps the most conspicuously diverse grouping of learners.

the work wasn't. In high school, again, I felt no difference. For one class, I was allowed to go to a upstairs room with four other girls, sit on the floor, and leave the material open on the textbook. We would finish a unit of lessons fairly quickly, and would then have up to a week of classes where we sat around and did nothing, waiting for the class to catch up and the teacher to give us the rest of the instructions. It is important that no student be left behind—or class ahead, for that matter. I advocate the old system of skipping grades—a challenge, perhaps, but one much more useful than taking a back seat for six years.

Karen J. Lamb-Hamilton

MACLEAN'S
Real Estate
HOUSE PRICES
Real Estate
REMARKS
 The value of your house is almost as deep as the roots.

applies there can be: Freedom of thought, honest discussion, a serious consideration of social issues and the underlying justice of the status quo are all different in each program. We are deeply confused about what learning exceptionally really is, and how we should respond to them. I can only applaud every effort to provide differentiated instruction, but we need to encourage the sensitivity and flexibility that it requires.

Mya Fox, Principal, The Dragon Academy

WHEN I WAS in Grade 6, I was classified as a gifted student. I now realize that I was lucky to have this opportunity, as there were no gifted students in my area attending the district school to warrant a regular bus. However, I never really saw the difference between actual classes and those in the program. Sure, everyone in the class was gifted, but a little bit

OLD BATTLES "A war on our history" (Ivan the Editors, March 2), regarding the late last year's controversy about the Battle of Plains of Abraham, made my day! I started seeing out of my own eyes since learning of the pusillanimous decision of the National Historical Commission to cancel this historic event, which shaped the entire future of North America. The Canadian government and the Canadian people have been on our backs—and to accommodate Quebec's sensibilities, but the separation between life and death and the annihilation of children whose wrongs, no matter how petty, they could not put it suddenly when it said, "Our history is written by the winners." Read!

Rick Crisp, Mississauga, Ont.

BOOK EDITORS say that Canadian history is "written by the winners" and then go on to prove it. The constraint of the editor is one long white sheet separates and "political revisionism." English Canada seems to have swallowed a big chunk of British myth (ask us). Certainly, the Battle of the Plains of Abasco was important, but the whole thing was an episode in the Seven Years War, a world-wide imperial war involving not only the British.

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JOAN MARCUS/STYLING

ch and the French, but also Prussia, Russia, Spain and others. The North American epitome made with the Treaty of Paris when France traded Quebec to Britain in remembrance of Guelph and Montcalm, instead of dressing men up in costumes and having them shoot blanks at each other, why not re-enact the Treaty of Paris? It is not surprising that some French Canadians feel that re-enacting a battle that represented a defeat for some of their ancestors is an attempt to humiliate them. Instead of pretending to be imperial cannon fodder, let's act like grown-ups.

John K. Collins, Winnipeg

WHEN ARE NORMAL, sane Canadians going to stand up and say enough is enough regarding these traitors? I know if I threatened someone with violence, as some of these idiot separatists did, I would be exhibiting myself very quickly as a public statue.

David Loney, Montreal, Que.

MORE CANADIANS do not understand, or refuse to understand, that Quebec separatists have never assigned the battle at Plains as a defeat but, rather, a pyrrhic. They have been playing the overtime period for 150 years and will continue to play until they win. Any losses in setbacks they incur are brushed off by blaming the loss, the English language "threw" or "imposed" that defeat to see the world through their prism.

Jack Kupperman, Kirkland, Que.

THE DECISION to cancel the Plains of Abolition re-enactment is regrettable. It is especially bad because it does little to offend, as for who won the short skirmish, but for its aftermath. It is the vested self-interest of separatists to trumpet an imagined causal when they say the re-enactment would have been a slight to their French heritage. Rather, it was the only biased articles of the "separatist" agreement after the cessation of hostilities that led to the 1763 Treaty of Paris, which gave New France the parameters that



M.I.A. should stick to music not politics!

preserved in culture. The treaty broke with convention practice—think of the Acadia expedition in the years before—and granted unprecedented rights of religion, language and education (the revolution) and protected the culture of the former French subjects who now found themselves under British rule. Without this pivotal piece in history, French in Quebec today would probably be like it is in Louisiana: square Cajun cultural tourist attraction and possibly not even an official language. All Canadians should be celebrating this anniversary, but perhaps more so than the Quebecois.

Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament, Edmonton, Alta.

I THINK it was a good move to cancel the re-enactment of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. For over 175 years the battle has been a sore point with every generation of French Canadians. Why would the rest of Canada want to foment "our" win in glowing colours and gaudy presentations? As a former employee, I loved working with my French speaking colleagues in Ottawa and Quebec.

They have a year now that seems to be ending here in the West. I very much appreciate what their culture has given to Canada. Could we not use this anniversary not to Quebecize how things is appreciated?

G.A. Noble, Sherwood Park, Alta.

IT'S TIME to move on, to stop dressing up battle-damaged men, jokes and legends. There is much more to write about in our nation than the nonsensical theatrics to which you devote a page.

Gordon M. Clark, Saskatchewan, B.C.

PERSPECTIVE IS M.I.A.

I HAVE BEEN a subscriber of *Maclean's* for several decades, and can't for the life of me see why you would run a photo of the scantily clad, nine-months-pregnant, silly female singer M.I.A., obviously under a guise of common sense, under the headline "Moths are going wild" (From the Editors, Feb. 11). She should be glad and not have her obvious need for publicity explained further by publicity of this kind. If ever there was a need for intervention to have this antiquated baby placed in perspective, this is it!

Audrey W. Phillips, Ottawa

I HAVE NO problem with M.I.A.—the only magazine in Canada I read with respect—write about M.I.A. and her pregnancy, who she calls herself M.I.A. ("Why not there," Music, March 2). However, it becomes a problem when wrong information is spread to tarnish the image of my country, knowingly or unknowingly. The article states that *Anti-program* is the daughter of a prominent Tamil revolutionary. Unfortunately, in Sri Lanka we did not have any revolutionaries; only terrorists who try to separate the small island nation. All this we know is that her father was a member of the Eelam People's Liberation Organisation (EPLO). Note: writer also says "M.I.A. was born in Britain, but returned to war-torn Sri Lanka as a baby, where she spent her early childhood with her



7 DAYS
 THE WEEK'S
 MOST IMPORTANT
 STORIES

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF HAMID KARZAI

The embattled Afghan leader launched a bold attempt to stick it to his political opponents, issuing a decree calling for a snap presidential election. The plan, which would have moved the vote from August to mid-April, was panned by Karzai's domestic backers, and dismissed as a naked power grab. Within days, anonymous "Whisper officials"—the real power brokers in the country—were declaring the gambit dead. The vote, they say, will take place on schedule. Nice try, though.

Good news

Cell break

Researcher Torrance Moore Strat hospital made a huge breakthrough in a case of neurodegeneration in this week, publishing a new method for creating the building blocks from adult human tissue. These results, detailed in *Neuron* last fall, confirm a previous discovery by a Japanese team, claiming the need to use potentially dangerous viruses to reprogram the cells. It offers a way to bypass the controversial practice of harvesting stem cells from embryos, and gives hope for the future treatment of everything from diabetes to Parkinson's and even spinal injuries. *Brain*

Showtime!

When you're about to lose your job and your home, where can you go for help? The money! Cramer has seen attendance increase 177 percent, according to reports, spurred by folks seeking cheap entertainment. It's great news for the studios, which have had trouble drawing flies over the past few years. But all is not rosy: An Academy of Hollywood actors and directors is on the march, looking to build a bonanza with the Islamic state, working with government demand for an apology over the "mad scientist" in *Alfred* last year. *Entertainment Weekly*

Mellow, below

Three different studies released this week all point to the same piece of advice: Let your children watch television, it's not going to make them worse adults. Let your sons and daughters play outside, being cooped up only leads to unruly behavior.

Bad news

Like a rock

The stock markets continued to tumble this week, plunging depths not seen in more than a decade. Leading the sad parade was insurance giant AIG, reporting a quarterly loss of almost \$10 billion, despite adding up to \$10 billion and counting in government aid. Small wonder that a new poll suggests 17 percent of Americans are losing sleep over financial worries—double the number of people who reported worrying and sleeping.

had been brought in to clean up the city's political scene. It's a case that some experts think the NATO pact is in danger of becoming faded into. And you were worried about the water.

Sins of the fathers

The Vatican continues to struggle with the fallout over its handling of the Holocaust during the 1940s. The Catholic Church's Richard Williamson apologized this week, but still didn't accept his views, so the dismay of both the Church and human rights groups (Germans are threatening to arrest him for hate crimes.) However, this pales in comparison to the much less publicized case of Roman Catholicism. The former Brazilian army general was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a tribunal investigating the 1964 genocide. He was found guilty of attempted rape and of abducting people who had sought refuge in a sanctuary, many of whom were later killed. *God*

Gambling man

Russ Angel's brother, he's still impressive and Celine Dion's ever-growing bubble, can you tell? Subject of somewhat of a cult, he'll all to his long list of titles. Angel, who has been the owner of the famous gambling casino in the city of Las Vegas, is the subject of *Le Maître du Jeu* (The Master of the Game), an authorized biography. Author Georges Robert Gosselin details the 60-year-old manager's lifelong gambling addiction. "I lost more than I've won," Angel says of the millions he's squandered over the years. Not that he's learned his lesson: In a recent interview with *Le Journal de Montréal*, Angel says he has thought about going back to his old job.

Party foolhardy

Both the U.S. and Canadian governments are warning students to steer clear of parts of Mexico this spring break. A spiraling drug war has claimed more than 6,000 lives, making areas near the U.S. border especially dangerous. Randomized tourists aren't likely to be immune. Can't get a police chief is now in custody as authorities probe whether he had a role in last month's murder of a federal army general who

FACE OF THE WEEK



WISCONSIN SMILE: Gregor Sailer of Switzerland celebrates his first-place finish in the men's Slalom World Championship

ing to a new United Nations report. It's a massive change from just six years ago, when less than 15 per cent had cell access—growth that has been dramatically poor, developing countries. It may not seem like progress to those North American analysts, but phones are one of the cheapest and most effective ways to fight poverty. In areas where land lines are scarce, small cell towers can be used by connecting all types of cell phones and laptops, helping families manage their time, and access basic needs. Off the hook.

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NEWSMAKERS

Who can get over what, and when

Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are making a trip to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii this summer. Of course, Japan's attack on the U.S. naval base on Dec. 7, 1941, brought the United States into the Second World War, so a visit by the imperial couple is bound to be contentious in both countries. Japanese emperor has a strong forerunner was, having previously visited Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Okinawa and Saigon. If the visit comes off, the couple will be Pearl Harbor as their way back to Japan after an off-visit to Canada.



EMPEROR AKIHITO AND EMPRESS MICHIKO

Rule No. 1: know your audience

Alfreda Pennington said Saturday says its premise has to do with the job of communicating about his province's controversial oil sands. He made this an awareness to a gathering of local producers in that state.

Overworked conductor gets style points

Montreal-born conductor Patrick Simon, who is also the music director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic and principal conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and music director of Montreal's Orchestre Symphonique, has been made an ambassador of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, performing with it, and, and, and. Simon critics find

and Simon's past with driving vibrant performances from his orchestra, and revealed that his posture approach was "visibly demonstrative and almost dance-like."

A coup that didn't need any help

Frederick Forsyth, author of *The Day of the Wolf*, which told of a failed plot by a group of European monarchists to topple the government of a fictional African country, has been named as the man who helped to bring down the country's president this year.

and my chief of staff... Forsyth has admitted to helping France's 1979 president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and to his own presidency in Guinea-Bissau last week. He said he had nothing to do with the coup.

the killings on political violence. "The president was a very violent man and the chief of staff was a pretty violent man, too. We are not talking about two monarchists here."

Americans honor Canadian rockers

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers will honor Vancouver's Arts and Nancy Wilson with its prestigious Founders Award during the 26th Annual Pop Music Awards in Los Angeles in April. The Wilsons were key members of the band Heart, which peaked in the 1970s with such hits as *Devil Woman* and *Magic Man*. They are still performing in "middle-aged rock on radio."



NANCY AND ARIN WILSON

the late, known as a group of the Lowlanders.

Russian oligarch makes sacrifices

The global economic meltdown has been critical to Russian billionaire Oleg Deripaska. Last year he lost his job as head of the company, and he has been forced to sell his assets, including his stake in the Russian oil company.

which Moscow based his TV network's success. He has been forced to sell his assets, including his stake in the Russian oil company.

Safe sex on the set, please

Nancy Seltman, the California mother of the young girl who was found dead in a pool of blood in a hotel room in Los Angeles last month, is now getting a lot of attention for her role in a new movie, with

Reading verdicts in the clouds

Page 10 of the *New York Times* on the grounds of an actor's career. The actor's career is now in jeopardy, and he is now in jeopardy.



BOPE (IN LEFT)

appointment as a deputy bishop of Rome but changed his mind after coming under heavy criticism from American bishops and his own supporters. He is now in Rome and Austria.

Princess Patricia's land royal recruit

Princess Patricia, a 44-year-old land royal recruit, is now in the land royal recruit.



PRINCESS PATRICIA

Otherwise she's over him

South Korean actress of the film *Love in the Moonlight* is now in the film.

Those poorly whites were made for TV

As leader of the Action Network, the group is now in the group.



RONALDO

Brazilian soccer training tip

Ronaldo, the soccer player, is now in the soccer player.

A feast fit for a king

Zimbabwe's ruling party, the ZANU-PF, is now in the ZANU-PF.

the system, Albert Hing Lee, who has been linked to Chinese organized crime. Magpie is now in the Chinese organized crime.

After hibernating, this was inevitable

He died more than a year ago, but the death was inevitable.

Jackie Chan vs. the late Yves Saint Laurent

The Chinese government is now in the Chinese government.



ROBERT PULSAR



STELLA MILLER

er dealer who says he has no interest in paying and wanted to sabotage the auction.

She's no Maid Marian

Sheila Miller, 27, is getting to respect at all. She was dumped in 1997 by Billy Scott's ex-wife, who is now in the Billy Scott's ex-wife.

Can the PM keep Barack Obama's attention?



PAUL WELLS

When Hillary Clinton met comd. Alex Salmond, Scotland's first minister, in Washington in late February, she probably wanted to keep an eye on a separatist leader who's been making news on his own taking his nation out of the U.S. But Scotland will never be high on a secretary of state's list of worries, and in the meantime there is business to transact. So Salmond pitched wind turbines (not successful Scottish energy features) as a ready source of clean energy. Barack Obama's first budget affirms lots of money for clean energy, and lots of suppliers are lining up to get some.

For her own first trip abroad, Clinton created several distractions and issues before landing on Asia and climate change. She brought the climate change treaty Todd Stern to Beijing, and she didn't bring along her list of items for war control or bio-ethics.

When Obama came to Ottawa he was full of praise for his neighbor's climate change policies. The neighbor wasn't Canada. "We've actually had taken some of the boldest steps toward the themes of alternative energy and carbon reductions of any country out there," the President told the CBC's Peter Mansbridge. In a briefing before Obama left for Ottawa, White House officials couldn't stop talking about Mexican President Felipe Calderón's climate change policy.

Stephen Harper has decided to make Canada U.S. relations a priority, and common action on energy and the environment are a big part of this plan. But at our little round of Scotland, Mexico and China followed, we are not alone. Harper likes to hear he has no more making priorities. Even if that's still true—a big "if"—it's easier to make priorities than to become one.

After Clinton's China trip, Kenneth Atherton, a climate change expert at Washington's Brookings Institution, told the New

York Times what it all means. "She's saying, 'We have changed the U.S. approach to this as a huge step. We want you to know that, and we want you to know the door is wide open for serious conversation.'"

And that's the problem. After serious conversation is setting a high hurdle for Harper's government. Asking that conversation be backed by concrete action, especially on climate change policy, has often been along too much.

The counterpart of the Harper government's action on greenhouse gas emissions is the "Taming the Corner" plan announced in April 2007 by John Baird, who he was working out of the environment minister's office. So far, that's no action at all. Taming the Cor-



The President is big on climate change policy. Stephen Harper? Not so much.

ner is a baroque set of regulations that was supposed to transform energy production by capping and trading emissions permits. But first the government needed to do the original plan's infamous 2007 planning, "to examine the final regulatory framework...also to explore legacy legislation for the actual regulations." That was supposed to happen by fall 2008. It didn't. Last fall Prime Minister Baird's successor, don't talk about Taming the Corner speech. The businessman who used to be in charge of the file, Claude Charbon, has been transferred to the transportation unit last year's business outlook. Word inside the government is that the broken-broken plan shambled hard on Taming the Corner. The Harper government prefers to work toward "a commercial solution" with Obama.

But Obama has the choice of sitting on many countries. He might prefer to pit steps his relationship with Canada above others, but the Harper crew would need to bring some serious game. It's been doing the opposite.

The International Renewable Energy

Agency, with 75 member countries, had its founding conference in January. The U.S. sent an observer. Canada didn't even bother doing that. A report from the Pembina Institute says Obama's budget supports Harper's by far so far, per capita, on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Harper's budget failed to expand its popular funding for Renewable Energy programs, which pays companies \$100,000 for every kilowatt hour of clean energy they put into the grid, even though companies are lining up for a chance to make that kind of concrete contribution to Canada's green energy supply.

In the absence of the energy Harper could have provided, Canadian firms are pulling up stakes and moving offshore. Germany's "Solar Valley" waste electrical becoming home to more and more Canadian firms leaving German employees.

It is a bit only to say the air is out of the Obama-Harper relationship. Scott Brown still has a lot of hope. I chatted with Derek Burney, who used to be Ian Macdonald's chief of staff, and then his ambassador to Washington, and who ran Harper's transition to government in 2006. With Carlson University grad

Harper, Burney went to the fall of advice for Harper on managing solutions with Obama. He found Obama's will "pretty impressive" and thought the Harper-Obama joint news conference was "one of the most attractive by two leaders that I've seen in a long time."

"When it goes from here is the big question," Burney continued. "To what extent the PM begins to get in the big question? We shared some news, and then Burney repeated, 'I don't want to be too blunt, but the only way this is going to work is if the PM remains open.'"

He sounds worried. Canada and the U.S. actually used to have a bilateral Working Group on Climate Change. It met for the fourth time in June 2007 in Washington, and its members looked forward to the next year's meeting in Ottawa. That meeting never happened. What changed? Stephen Harper became prime minister. Don't tell Barack Obama. ■

ON THE WEB For more Paul Wells visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/feature/paul-wells

What we can learn from the pension meltdown



ANDREW COYNE

There is one piece of good news in the staggering losses lately reported by Quebec's Caisse de Dépôt et Placements: it will be hard to blame this one on the feds. In a province where federalism is routinely blamed for everything, where sovereignty is offered up as the cure, not only for the worldwide financial meltdown (Theory: the economic crisis demonstrates the necessity of sovereignty) from Quebec's Liberal Prime Minister told his ministers in a recent party meeting, but for terrorism, global warming and head line, this is one issue that is clearly and unequivocally off the table.

Indeed, the Caisse, which serves as a trustee of the Quebec Pension Plan, as well as a grab bag of other provincial, municipal and private funds, lies at the very heart of the "Quebec first" approach to the economy, an emblem and symbol of the province's nationalistic sentiment all these years. The QPP was the first grant-in-aid at Quebec's post-Quebec Revolution drive for sovereignty, carved out of the massive Canada Pension Plan in 1965 to the sound rum of thousands of thousands of federalist spokesmen.

Yet if the feds' federalist reflex must be completely waived, do not imagine this points to any sudden outbreak of frank thinking in the province about the Caisse and its role. If that sort of frankness were likely, after all, it would have happened long ago. Though it has never before poured the kind of rain that 35 per cent loss in a single year has put on the roof of the political edifice of last, in truth the Caisse has been a drag on Quebec's finances since its founding, and it was its role in its creation to promote the province's "economic development" (i.e., favour a few well-connected firms at the expense of everyone else) rather than, say, create a decent return for its beneficiaries. Pierre Aubourg's 1995 book *Quebec Inc.* and

the *Tongue-tied* of Jean Gauthier's neatly catalogued the Caisse's many misadventures (Protonic, Enbridge, Enbridge, etc.) though there have been many more since, leading at last to the Caisse's governance's 2004 decision to reduce the Caisse on its proper fiduciary responsibilities.

Carefully, it was that very reform that the PQ opposition has scored on as the source of the calamity. It was the promise to achieve

THE Caisse headquarters: \$40-billion loss



Compulsory plans like the CPP expose older investors to risks they shouldn't have to face

higher returns, the PQ claims, that drove the Caisse to invest heavily in assets including commercial real estate. \$11.2 billion, the Caisse held 30 per cent of the massive ABIC mall in Canada, more than half of this was later written-off and in turn its equity budget, especially in the fourth quarter. But the explanation can account for why the Caisse's performance was so much more than that of the CFP (2008 return: -34.4 per cent), or the Caisse's managed equity fund (2008 return: 35.3 per cent), or indeed the average for all CFPs on pension funds (16 per cent).

Perhaps, in fairness, that is not the question we should be asking. For all the Caisse's well publicized woes, none of the pension funds are close to have done particularly well last year. And while all of them caught

the decline in the markets, that only raises the question: why were they invested so heavily in assets? I don't mean to echo the National Post's Terry O'Connor, who said the whole "bonds for the long run" theory of investing. For younger investors, with 20 or 40 years investing horizon, I think the case for stocks and similarly risky investments is more compelling. But for those nearer to retirement age, a very different strategy is in order, placing greater emphasis on preservation of capital. Yet under a general compulsory pension funds like the CFP or QPP, that option is unavailable to them: the old are exposed to the same risky ABC-style "mixtures" as the young, though they have much less ability to absorb them. Yet, if the old are still guaranteed for now. But another year they are the last one, and some combination of higher contributions and lower benefits will be inevitable.

There's another problem with the QPP/CFP model: The people who run these funds do not simply invest in stocks. They invest in private stocks, frequently selecting their positions with the aim of "beating the market." Yet there is one thing that is absolutely clear from the economic literature, it is that this is almost impossible to do, or at best for more than a year or two. In a typical year, between two-thirds and three-quarters of all such actively managed funds finish behind the market average—meaning they finished worse than would be expected had they simply thrown darts at the stock listings. They do not because they are stupid, but because they are in competition with a lot of other smart investors—40,000 or more from consistently, they would have to have access to information the other don't—and because, in most cases, of "buying opportunities," they precisely keep some of their portfolio in cash, where it is more liquid.

When the CFP first got some equity investing a few years ago, it was promised that it would simply "buy the index," thus assuring it could at least do no worse than the market average. Somehow that was forgotten, leaving the CFP free to pursue the sort of strategy of self-induced volatility that got the Caisse into so much trouble. At a minimum, then, a return to index investing would seem appropriate. But would it be better yet to be given these forced savings back to their rightful owners, and let each investor pick his or her own appropriate risk to his situation? ■

ON THE WEB For more Andrew Coyne visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/feature/andrew-coyne



'If you tell your kid, "A couple of beers is okay," then why not four? Why not 16? The message has to be zero tolerance.'

PSYCHOLOGIST AND TEEN EXPERT MICHAEL BRADLEY TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT WHY TEENS ARE CRAZY, AND THE NEED FOR A SHORT LEASH

Q What's going on with toys that makes them act, as you put it, on your new book, "crazy"?

Q Neurologically, their brains are going through an explosion of growth, getting ready to list the great leaps into adulthood. But if there's not a medical cause, the fallouts from the recession present emotional processing that goes awry, and then they're less likely to read social cues. So, secondly, the world is telling them that to change do things like we tell destructive. Cultural groups, in the films of long living or times in movies or video clips, are telling them drugs, sex and certain forms of violence are cool, adult and harmless. Thanks to the efficiency of electronic, we poured them with these suggestions to a degree we've seen pointed out neither generation nor the first issue in that, as parents, we don't really respond very well. We're not doing it. These kids are growing with risks from their generations but aren't aware of them.

Q What kinds of parental responses are they?

As The biggest is to use fear. A lot of us were raised by parents who'd hit, yell, threaten and punish. That's a lot of our training, but it doesn't work today. We also can't punish a kid's world the way our parents could. The rationale statement used to be, "How do you control the kid?" We can't afford that any more, because of the changes in the culture. Now it's, "How do I teach my kid to control

himself." It means talking to your kid with respect, asking good questions, helping her form a set of values, because you're not going to be there when she needs those values to

Q Large-scale U.S. studies show that teen pregnancy and drug use are both down by about 25 percent over the past 10 years. Smoking and drinking have also declined. Isn't this evidence that kids are actually less stressed?

As in their studies to year period, hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection in humans has increased twice in threefold in American Indians as does, we do know that, but levels of seral positivity are higher than they've ever been, so we levels of acutely manifest disease. We've not highly ascertained the prevalence of HAV in the population from self-report information, where you could form asking if they're having sex, using drugs. We have some research that suggests some respiratory rates underestimates those behaviors by 30 to 40 per cent. The reason is that a lot of kids today understand that there's an information age where very little, if anything, is truly private. Another straining example of under-reporting was instead of asking kids if they had a sexually transmitted disease, researchers usually drew blood in a well-controlled sample of American Indians, and then found that 10% of them had STD. That study did not include testing for syphilis or gonorrhea, so the true numbers are even higher.

Q You've said that partnering is most useful

over during the new years. Why?

A tiger is a dangerous animal from day one on this, because we've all taught that the first five years of life are the most crucial. I argue that the last five, from 13 to 18, are at least as critical and perhaps more so. The kids are developing an adult brain, thinking creatively, making decisions, and the world is throwing a lot of challenges at them. Many parents respond by trying to be a friend to their child. But when we overindulge our kids, we make them weak. Kids are able, adults, to do very well at school and at sport, but it's very little else in life. They can't do life, because they haven't become resilient through distress, or

earning their way, or living with frustrations and being able to overcome them. A lot of parents refuse to let their kids be frustrated; we pump-in and solve all their problems. In so doing, we can cripple them.

Q: How important are chores and responsibilities for teenagers?

A Really important: People say we should contribute, but I think it's the flip side of that: really, stress is so important that we need them. There need to be a sense of responsibility, not based on being yelled at or told they're lazy, but hearing, "We really need you to help, we're counting on you." When you create that feeling at a team, they're much less apt to act crazy.

Q: How long have to stay with them much earlier than the two years in order for them to be willing to do them, right?

A: I think it's best to start early, but if you

haven't, it's never too late. When your son turns 13, you can say, "You're a young man now and it's time for you to make your own name in the world. Instead of branding you as a slacker and for doing nothing, we're going to use this money to put you on a salary for doing chosen community service, and you control the money. Whatever you want to do with it is fine. But no more welfare state. You have to earn your way." That's welcome to the adult world. Kids will complain, sometimes, but you can have research showing that kids who earn their keep up, 20-year-old Topoan as an example of a kid who's self-started his own brand, new BMW.

Q: What are the most difficult years for

A Typically, middle schoolers 12 or 13 for most girls, 13 or 14 for most boys, just start the breast changes. I become earlier, which explains why they seem so much more than boys—they actually are for quite a while, because they have the neurologic advantage—and why girls change earlier boys. It's interesting when you look at breast cancer—boys have one grade above all of the girls are on about the same level neurologically.

Q: What should parents not bother me about?

At Think of those priority baskets: red is critical, orange is middle of the road, yellow is "don't worry about it." Money issues, household chores, laundry are all in the yellow basket. Parents will go to war over clothes, but they are truly inconsequential. I've dealt with kids you'll cross the street to get away from, they're the crazy-looking, but they're wonderfully smart. And I've dealt with kids who wear hoodies and khakis, you wish they'd drag your daughter and they run out to be better players.

Q But sexually provocative clothing is even
 doing so worry about, right?

At Yes, you have to address it. As the father of an 11-year-old girl I am praying for the return of the garage lock! Sexually provocative clothes are linked to a red basket issue: the sexualization of girls. We have pinned those bull's eyes on the backs of adolescent girls and told them they are sexual creatures primarily, and that their role in the culture is to be sexual comfort to boys. They are not one or the other.

Q: So what do you do if your iron starts driving like a bomber?

At Parents have this part, but now have to do heterosexual sex education. Dads, you go to take the girls out for a coffee and have a hammering conversation about what the clothes mean to a teenage boy. Dad has been so considerate this time because he is a

teens-age boy, "Honey, at 14 you old people your outfit in an adventure movie again." "Hey, come have meaningless sex with me." Confined to be amused by that because the dress not for the boys but for other girls. In a companion, they're really just wearing uniform and trying to outdo the frim-frim. And means need to take their sons and see the boys. The boys are happy because they're becoming the predators. The girls are happy because they're becoming the prey. It's a good thing for everyone, really, so the girls are happy. "I'm fine and I'm happy. Mommy need to be an 'A'." "Yes, I have to stop this. As a female, the women are not word like that. They mean they think they are, for a while, and they come down through that pretty soon. As you will know, I have a female friend of yours? I don't see an answer, just think about it." Focus on the only one when you're dealing with a woman. The woman is the only one who can do violence on a man. Important aspect of the heart, the character of the child.

Q: What if you find your bed watching porn?

As I pull up a chair and say, "Let's wait together," Moss' kids would rather die the

wand passen mit ihrer Mutter, which gives you an opportunity to say, "If there's nothing wrong with pain, there should be a problem with us watching it change." The actually match is a lot of pain today has very future element, lots of violence sometimes and even nihilists, it's not the solution itself that was around when we grew up. It provides a great opening to talk to kids about their values, what they think about what they're seeing. You can even have them do a little research on what parents' lives are like, whether they're actually enjoying what they're doing, whether in real life, girl and woman want to be treated that way.

Q: Are girls watching porn, too?

As increasingly pos, and we are beginning to see a new phantasm of porn adulation

Q: What should you do if you find

As I like them out to that coffee shop—the coffee shop is pretty nice because you're less likely to sneeze and sell there than in a kitchen—and say, "Look, I know you're sneezing. I just want to know what you sneeze about." Go in, talk. Inquire, ask the kid, "Why do you do this?" because you might find a piece of gold you weren't expecting. When you approach a kid at 15 or 16 years old with respect, as though he makes sense, he is much more likely actually to make sense. Often the kid will say, "Actually, I think it's great, but I don't like the guy thinking I do." Then you say, "Do you hate the kid, you can't say that." Do you really want to be controlled by the external world? Ask for a sufficient respect for the

best therapy in the world. Put the question "Why?" in the kid's head. It's much more effective than the threat route, which turns it into a game: how do I keep smoking without my parents finding out?

Q: What if you find drugs?
A: It's the same drill if you go in with respect, love and concern, use the least intrusive strategy and ask questions, sometimes you'll have a kid who'll break down and ask for help. You don't drive the behaviour underground.

Q: I'm not sure that most cops would view drug use the way they were smoking. Drugs can make you feel good.

As *Nimblebody* Andri often messengers start out using them to self-medicate, as a way of dealing with some of these changes that erupt in early adolescence. The dragons help a lot short-term, but long-term they become useful, even magical, because of



'If you catch them watching porn, pull up a chair and say, "Let's watch together." Most kids would rather die than watch porn with their mother.'

psychologically still living. Remember that to cry is to the kid may seem at times, there's also an emerging adult in there, who's heard a lot of the information about drugs and may be open to a respect-based intervention. The other thing is that drugs are so prevalent, he knows kids who are potheads and pillheads and alcoholics at 15. You have to get his brain to look at that side of drug use and think about whether there's a better way to feel good.

Q: What about drinking?

A I use alcohol as a drug—I know there will be huge backlash because it's just as dangerous as the other drugs and maybe more so for teens. We saw how a great body of literature tying that alcohol does terrible things to adolescent brains. I want to attack the learning centers in the brain, and it seems to wire in addiction much more quickly. Research shows that if kids start drinking at 14, they have five times the rate of addiction as someone who starts drinking at 21. Teenage brains are soft, highly plastic, open to the addiction and neurologic effects of alcohol and other drugs.

Q But most kids seem to drink their mom's milk as much?

A That's where I live most of the audience, any of it. The problem is one of access. If you tell your kid, "A couple of beers today" then why not four? Why not 10? Once you cross that threshold of accessibility you've got a big problem. The message has no consequences. You keep saying to your kid, "Just don't drink it's okay, a can't happen to it." We're seeing more kids in the effects of alcohol than all of the other drugs combined.

Q Through drinking and drugs?

A Not just that. Most teen suicides are done in association with alcohol. I sit on a committee where we do psychological post-mortem on kids who get their hands down and talk to their parents and so forth, and try to figure out how we don't lose the next one. In virtually every situation, alcohol figures in somehow, it's a depressant. And we lose another whole bunch of kids who [unintentionally] drink their way to death, they put their breathing mechanisms to sleep and choke on their own vomit. It's a deadly drug, and teens are getting it from parents.

We actually address a, particularly for boys, as a risk of passing, by associating it with sports and football. It's crazy. The American Medical Association had a study two years ago and one third of the kids and their parents, gave them alcohol voluntarily, and one fourth said they drank with their parents in with the parents it was fine.

Q What goes on in the heads of parents who supply it for their parents?

A We actually researched this at the post hoc, and we had parents saying, "Well, I didn't want him doing drugs." I'm thinking, ah, really? Another response was, "I didn't want her drinking and driving, so we'd set up a key in the basement and tell the kids not to tell their parents, but say it's a sleep over." We were really safeguarding all these children. The other one was, "I'm teaching my kid how to drink." The first is, she did a garage-drink, it's so prevalent in households that all of our kids are going to experiment with alcohol and likely compare. The key

something. How can we keep them from happening the next time?" When the kid says, "Oh, I won't drink again," you say, "Well what happens if you do? Are you telling me you're not ready for the level of freedom he has out in the park on Friday nights?" Put the consequence in place for the next time. Are you good at teaching? If the kid can do alcohol makes kids away—and by the way, it's associated with STDs and unintentional pregnancies—then he's less likely to see booze as inoffensive. If you go crazy, yell, scream, hit the kid and ground him, he's not going to

climb out the window and get back to the booze as soon as he can.

Q Do kids today drink differently than their parents did?

A Yes, more binge drinking, as much as they can, as fast as they can. A lot of kids have the taste of alcohol, so they make vodka pop cubes and find ways to ingest lethal amounts without the bad taste. The second thing is that they drink at younger and younger ages.

Q What can parents do if their kid really won't talk or communicate?

A First, understand it's normal. Boys, in particular, often go into the cave for a year, just disappear into their rooms. Don't take it personally, because you've learned what they need to drop the fear and now they're ready to get a relationship, really connecting more like trust, responsibility, loyalty, the nature of friendship. They've gone to another school, if you will, temporarily. Continue to do outreach—not screaming and yelling, but knocking on the door and saying, "Hey, we love and miss you, and know you're into the family right now, but if you ever need a hug, or want to go for a walk, let me know." The kid will talk back, saying, "God Mom, stop," but inside he knows he's loved. The worst thing to do is figure that parenting act over and now your kid is on his own. Kids get sad and depressed and sometimes filled with rage when parents pull away from them in early adolescence.

Q Are most parents aware of how fast their kids' brains get up?

A There are great at flying under the radar. That's alarming, actually. Parents also do the three whos: they should say in their kids' words, and I say, "If you do, you may get hurt you deserve." ■

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HOW TO FIGHT THE GANGS

Gang-related crime is rising, overwhelming the authorities. But something can be done. BY KEN MACQUEEN

**NATION'S
CRIME
RANKINGS**
A REGIONAL
EXCLUSIVE

"A crime is a terrible thing to watch," Prince Minister Stephens (Happer) said last Thursday, as he stood in a Burnaby, B.C., courtroom, once told to announce

1,990 millionaires (index) appear for a suburban
millionaires to the Lower Mainland's rapid
transit system. While the morning's hearing
was economic stimulus, he confirmed a dif-
ferentiation then otherwise a plague of gangs
and youth crime waged on the streets of
Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley and
communities across the country

In February alone, there were some 19 shootings in the Lower Mainland, eight deaths and a mounting fear that authorities were powerless to stop the attacks. And with good reason. In 1997 there were 28 gang-related murders in Canada. By 2007 that climbed to 117. One of every five people killed in Canada is now the victim of a gang hit. While B.C. has the current political spotlight, a spokesman for just 20 per cent of gang murders in 2007. One of every four gang killings, an act, happened in Okanagan. Where there is no front,

over that is a mixed blessing. Twelve years ago, Qachos accounted for a staggering 60 per cent of the nation's gang murders. By 2007 its share was down to 30 per cent, not because Qachos are not powerful, but because rivals in other provinces are more violent.

The impact of gang warfare is visible through the statistics in this, the first of annual national crime rankings, as compiled by Montreal's *Star* using Canada's data (see page 24). Since 1980, upwards of the crime rate has taken on a new meaning in 10 years in 2007. Their good news is tempered by the unattractive problem of violent youth crime—on the rise since the mid-1980s, and a troubling array of youth crime in 2006. Although the level is unchanged from 2006, it is double the rate of 20 years ago. The homicide rate by young adults, however, has remained the second highest since 1981.

On the 19th past midnight, Rosk Nicholson was, indeed in Ottawa the first of a series of proposed laws to take possession and impose mandatory minimum sentences for gun, gang and drug crimes, Harper convinced in Vancouver a closed-door meeting of regional police chiefs and the families of the victims of gang members. To his left sat Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu and to his right was Ellen Makin, whose 12-year-old son Chris was one of two innocent witnesses killed in a gang massacre that claimed six lives in a suburban Surrey apartment block during a previous wave of violence in 2007. Harper

looked around the table at the 15 or so in attendance. I'll give you each four minutes, he said, tell me one thing the government can do to help.

There is no talk for more resources, for tougher sentences for prolific offenders and programs to keep vulnerable youth out of the churches of gangs. That all of Harper's measures so far, which he considers as a first step, are predicated on punishing those who get caught—an all-too-infrequent occurrence. Solving the crisis will take more than adding a few pages in a federal Criminal Code, and firing off drive-by comments as the "tough-on-crime police" of his political opponents. It's not just bleeding hearts who say that, but also overworked local politicians, crime analysts and street-hardened cops.

Gangster across the country are getting away with murder. Three men, two with gang tags, were killed by gunmen who burst into the Calgary Vietnamese restaurant on New Year's Day. No arrests. The men killed 17 months ago were in a neighbouring apartment to the Mohlers. No arrests. And just last week, murder charges were withdrawn against two Toronto men accused of a gun slaying last March, after Burundians were unwilling to testify. Abolishers Abolishers, it, we called and five others were rounded up, witnesses opened fire in an apartment lobby. The man who was caught on grainy closed circuit surveillance tape, later pulled by police on New

Tide: Without witnesses, even that we deemed insufficient evidence to convict

Are shomvi fixated on securing provincial and parli eligibility as they blame unemployment? More probably they gamble on the slim odds of capture by overstretched murder squads, drowning in paperwork and shackled by legal procedures.

Where there is success, the resources required are staggering. Last month, 60 officers were made on police targeted the middle and upper echelons of a drug distribution ring in Montreal and parts of Ontario. Project Arc was a 2½ years in the making and involved 70 police officers from six police forces in Quebec and Ontario. This resulted among high lighted frustrating realism of modern-day gangsters, says Charles Mailhot, a Montreal police inspector with the special investigations unit. The current map replaced old-fashioned research run by habit gangs and it was born apart from an earlier police sweep in 2006. "That created a void that was filled by the street gangs," he says.

Herper got a lesson last week on how frustrating and out-of-control the legal system has become when it was Alameda County police Chief Bob Rich's turn to speak. He used his allotted time to describe the Bacon brothers—Jonathan, Jared and James—all affiliated with the Red Scorpions, the gang linked to the so-called "Surfer in

murders. Four minutes can't do justice to them
anyway, if justice has anything to do with it.

Rich asked for a change, to bail him out. The people charged with welfare crimes at scores of women's shelters. Even though the Times mentioned last year to troubled conditions for some gun offenders couldn't hold for the Nation's jail and not, said Rich. He makes a compelling case. All three brothers are apparently marked for death by the United Nations gang. They have survived assassination attempts due to lack, their unarmored men and the work of the very police officers who were in jail. Some of their associates aren't as fortunate.

Jonathan Socas, 18, walked free on drug and weapons charges in 2007. A year earlier he was hit several times in a head of garden outside of his parents' comfortable middle-class home in suburban Abingdon. He now lives in a care minimum in Port Maudslayi—where, thanks of the Wild West—police have declared him a public danger, and plastered warning posters on his road home.

James, 23, and Jamal, 36, both awaiting trial on weapons and drug offenses, live in their parents' home in part of their local neighborhood—a court order that has proved a nightmare for the Abbeville police. James, who was wearing an armoured vest, escaped death in January when his Mercedes sport coupe was riddled with bullets in heavy downtown Abbeville in the middle of the day. Dennis Karbowicz, a friend of the Baxons, survived a shooting last New Year's, arriving at a hospital clad in body armour. He is also too on his feet, facing charges

including possession of a loaded handgun and a different holder for a water compartment of his SUV. With no sobriety charges, asks Rich, why is he on bail? Another associate, Kevin LeClerc, was incarcerated in Langley parking lot last month. Last May, Jonathan Boubet, 33, was shot to death while driving a Porsche Cayenne belonging to one of the Baccas, in what police call a case of mistaken identity.

The Baccas have been a priority for Rich, a former deputy chief in Vancouver, since he took the top job in Abbotsford in July. When he drove in a cruiser to the tiny street where the Baccas live, a four-year-old son waved his tricycle. "We, tricycle," he thought. "This is awful." Tim and I, with the neighbors' approval, surveillance cameras in hand, strolled on the street. It wasn't a catalyst to going to court, says Rich. "If you're going to shoot the Baccas, you're not going to do it on that block." Rich's orders to the cops were simple: "If you're going to try anything that works." If someone could person-die on our street, someone, else we say to ourselves we did everything, we think, that we didn't have any private ideas or intuitive ideas or "mystery sense," he says. "I think it could happen in a minute."

So most every night the Becons are virtually put to bed by pollen, to ensure they're complying with their curfew and other bail conditions. After Junior Becon's streptococcal administration, police scolded the stragglers again. Now two members of the emergency response team sit in a marked cruiser outside the home, and dog the becons' footsteps around town. Two

continued on page 1

**ONE IN FIVE
MURDERS
NOW, NATION-
WIDE, IS A
GANG HIT**

continued on page 16



senior detectives are also working the strategy. "The 'uninvited guests' have the full approval of Alfordford Mayor George Fennell. "We want to keep the lights shining on them at all times," he says. Local businesses are urged to consider refusing the bourgeoisie—a kind of social shaming that seems appropriate in Alfordford, the heart of B.C.'s folkie belt.

The strategy is costing an estimated \$500 to \$1,000 a week, plus is diverting the attention of some of the small town's top officers. But has been accused of wasting city resources to protect some gangsters. "Is that a safe effect of that strategy?" he asks. "I'm sure it certainly is, that the goal will do what we're Alfordford community member to be that in the middle of this crisis."

Finally last weekend, the crimes swirling around the Bussard pulled another two members of the 11N gang and an associate, face charges including attempted murder for shooting up Rager Rover Bell, 36, owner of an associate of the Bussard. The victims were linked to a covert, eight-month investigation during which police also intervened to save 15 to 20 others, who "would have been either shot, murdered or kidnapped," the RCMP said in a news release. "This is by no means over," said Gary Bussard, RCMP commissioner for B.C. "We will track down the thugs responsible for the violence on our streets, our homes, and our lives."

Whether Alfordford's challenges and the sad stories of blood are lost in the creative lead to changes in hard-to-see. When Harper took most last week, but made no promises. "He's quiet, reserved man, not given to jumping around the room," says Bhatt. "I'll just say we were respectful and heard everyone's point. What governments does with it is another matter."

When, then, needs to be done? Mackenzie surrounded a variety of experts. Among their suggestions:

Choose policy over politics

Harper's proposed mandatory minimum sentences for gang and gun crime sent out primarily quick support from both the Liberals and the New Democrats, and even continued support from the Bloc. In fact, Liberal party critic Don McKinnon says the "one-size-fits-all" approach "is necessary" proposals don't go far enough.

The Tories have called tough sentences for a couple of years now, but they're let political squabbles or expediency delay or dilute legislation. In the fall of 2007, three of their crime bills were sent back when Harper got rounded. He then had to be pushed through again when a new session started. The bill to amend the Criminal Code and Substance Abuse Act was sent back in November 2007, only to die when Harper called an election. The revised bill would impose mandatory prison sentences at least in a two-year term for receiving a large quantity of drugs, or for dealing large drugs like cocaine and heroin near a school.

Another package of mandatory minimums

would automatically require any gang-related murder as first-degree homicide, carrying a penalty of life with no parole for 15 years. It would also impose a minimum four-year sentence for a first-time driver by choosing.

But it means that after sentence-reduction sent level might give girls after conviction. Doreen Hogg of the University of the Fraser Valley is one of the more vocal criminologists who says Harper's only initiative was in not proposing harsher minimums than are or two years for inflicting crimes. "I think they should be based up to 12 years minimum," says Hogg, who blames the judiciary for her sentencing. There's a law reformer, she says for those who've done bad before, she says. "How many people who are sent to a federal prison never show their face again?"

Others argue that if longer prison terms did the trick, the U.S.—with the highest incarceration rate in the developed world—would presumably be seeing fewer reductions in crime than Canada. Instead, rates in Canada and the U.S. have been declining at about the same pace since the 1990s. "Put the crime



graphs for Canada against the graphs for the U.S.," University of Toronto criminologist Doreen Hogg says, "and you see exactly the same thing."

Thirty years of research shows crime rates more independent of penalties, says Neil Rempel, a criminologist at Simon Fraser University. How else to explain why Newfoundland, under the same laws as B.C., has a consistently lower murder rate? "We've driven home that the penalty doesn't make a difference, but the culture of the area," he says. "What is significant is enforcement. Change the probability of arrest and conviction," he argues, "or prevent people from becoming involved [in gangs]."

Public fear and political expedience often made for the crime-fighting and bad policy, says Michael Charlebois, a criminal justice analyst and author of *When Things Go Wrong*, a guide to gang culture. "What we really need is to take a deep breath and realize that if you have nothing to do with the business of gangs or drugs, your chance of random victimization, whether it's Toronto, Montreal, Halifax or Winnipeg, is actually very, very low," he says. "We still have the opportunity that often in the United States, the south coast of A.L.A., don't have the opportunity to really get on top of the issue if we employ an intelligent, coherent strategy."

Under the police

Gang investigations—both federal witnesses and a gang code of silence and contribution—are a policing challenge. A federal study shows the average gang-related murder in Canada takes more than six months to investigate compared to about a week for many domestic or other homicides, says police chief John Robins, head of the B.C. Lower Mainland's largest homicide investigation team (JHIT).

BIT puts a minimum of an eight-month wait on each murder, in part to document the required high standard of Charter and privacy rights. It's unlikely serious crime investigators in any other jurisdiction as the "Western world" because of many resources, he adds. "And that's because of court rulings. That's because of disclosure rulings. That's because of just the complexity of the cases we're addressing."

In Calgary, acting Staff Sgt. Good Erickson, head of the police service's organized crime operations centre, says similar constraints. Gangsters often top legal talent paid by the underground, play the system to their own advantage, dragging out their trial until prosecution where legal proceedings go there a two or even three for-one credit for time served before conviction. Disclosure requirements are so strict that the accused eventually gets to look over the shoulders of police. "We also see them to how they're conducting their investigations, their legal tactics, their legal strategy," they learn from that and do things to counter that so far we can't

disclosure law has become a weapon for defence lawyers. That's not an investigation a cheque upon. Reducing the burden of disclosure rules is near the top of the B.C. government's list of crime agendas. Considerer released because in one major B.C. case, Project E-Bang was a 16-month police investigation by the RCMP, Vancouver police and police in the U.S. and a 16-month organized crime and international drug trafficking. More than 100 arrests were announced in December 2007, but only 67 of 154 charges police accumulated in B.C. have received the necessary Crown approval to go to trial. "It's not the system is backed up and lack of prosecution, as well as the agency of other workers, before the judge approval and prosecution," says Sgt. Doug Kish, head of the combined special forces and anti-terror units in B.C.

The delays are understandable. The case required police to draft 275 documents and warrants for judicial review, totalling 8,154 pages and 4,800 hours of officer time. Seventeen months to Crown court were drafted. 3,900 hours of police time, and a further 4,500 hours for legal briefs. Documents disclosing the use of the defence had almost 60,000 pages and 95 hours of volunteer evidence. Thousands more hours of police time while they're waiting disclosure needs to be made and years ahead as the cases reveal

truth and police. "If an eight-month wait on each murder, in part to document the required high standard of Charter and privacy rights. It's unlikely serious crime investigators in any other jurisdiction as the "Western world" because of many resources, he adds. "And that's because of court rulings. That's because of disclosure rulings. That's because of just the complexity of the cases we're addressing."

twisted trail. "If you expect witnesses to step forward, and the public to mobilize against gangs, they need better guarantee of safety," says Charlebois. "Why not new laws around witness intimidation?" he asks. "Why not beefing up coverage of court cases, or an obstruction of justice charges? The maximum penalty for contempt of court is a two-year loss of a job. Why not put more teeth in that?"

Choosing the money is another key strategy. Enforcing and enforcing laws on cocaine, heroin, cash, and other proceeds of crime. Too often such assets are underfunded and under-appreciated. Crime busting tactics that are having a growing impact on crime rates are the target of public criticism, the analysis of real-time crime maps, and the negative impact of crime maps, says Poyas.

Always accurate in weaponry also needs to be addressed. Struggled firearms are only part of the problem. Businesses that are legally open guns also have a huge number of guns out there. "We've seen through theft or illegal sale, very recent analysis of firearms inventory in B.C. is again Canada to provide on the quality and quality report maps on guns brought into the country to track and control firearm trafficking. One Burnaby company was able to import guns, ostensibly for the movie industry, only to turn around and sell some 2,000 illegally.

Prevention

Gang members are made, not born, says Poyas, the Alfordford judge, and a lot of life changes can make a difference. He wants to reinvigorate uniformed police school liaison officers and foster alternate education programs. Even a hot breakfast program for primary school children can save a child from falling behind, becoming alienated and seeking belonging in gangs, he says. Winnipeg, home to some of the country's hardest streets, has launched a multi-pronged series of diversion programs. Among them in SPIN (Sports Programs in Inner-City Neighborhoods). The program screens such barriers to inner-city sports programs in housing, transportation, clothing and school, says Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz. "We took these away and provided a healthy and positive environment for children in the community we believe would be at risk of joining gangs to feel accepted."

In Toronto, police have started outreach programs in at-risk areas and announced the posting of 30 uniformed officers in areas high



NOTES: 1. AVERAGE NUMBER OF GANG-RELATED MURDERS PER YEAR. 2. SOURCE: CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS. 3. YEAR 2008 DATA NOT AVAILABLE.

schools. And the departmental ministers (and funding, students from "poor" neighborhoods) for a variety of jobs. Many had worked in the public sector, at least on good terms, say spokesman Mark Nagala. "We now have people who have worked with us for three months who want to become police officers," he says. In Montreal, Priet Espino (Project Hope) is spearheaded by Lucien Anglade, a Haitian-born Montreal police officer and now runs a housing program for kids susceptible to gangs.

Such long-term thinking is all too rare for politicians who rarely look beyond the next election, says Charlieburgh. "We need to be keeping them engaged in pro-social activities because [if] the kid doesn't have a connection to traditional society, whether that's school, sports and recreation or family, he's going to become involved on the street."

If anything good comes of the end of gang violence in Vancouver, it's the realization "that it affects us all," says Charlieburgh. "This is not just the gangster community that is dying." All Stephen Harper had to do to appreciate that fact Thursday was look to his right, into the face of Elton Nohar.

Not far earlier, he'd talked to Meacham about what it felt like to lose his husband. Now to open the door to an empty home, one that used to be filled with music, laughter, morning shoes and all the great pieces of their lives? He seems tired, and nervous, and yet he smiles everywhere these days, it ripples, public forums and at the Prime Minister's residence. She runs on faith, determination, as Harper said in another context, not to waste this crisis. There are laws to be changed, and parents to be made accountable, and rights of victims and survivors to be rebalanced.

She speaks regularly with the homicide unit investigating the murder of her son, who died because he stepped into his agent's rear half-way, apparently on the way to play basketball. Progress, they tell her, is "steady, but slow." She tries to be patient. She knows the challenges they face, and that it will be these ones and women—more than laws and politicians or speeches—who will deliver such measure of justice she can hope for in this life. "When you're a parent who has lost a beautiful son, you want to believe in something," she says. "I want to believe in that, because I'm still believing in something else."

With Nancy Macdonald, John Golden, Nicholas Kroll, Martin Patten, Ayman Taha and Susan Macdonald

Strange lull as passport cut-off looms

BY RAYE LEBLANC • Piling into the car and heading south to Florida is the quintessential Canadian holiday, but this summer many could find themselves doing a U-turn at the border. As of June 1, Canadians will need a passport to enter the U.S. by land or water, so you'll think Passport Canada would be seeing a boom in applications. Despite the impending deadline, though, they're actually issuing slightly fewer passports than last year.

Once the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative comes into effect on June 1 of this year, your driver's license won't cut it anymore—only Canadians will be required to show a passport or other approved document to cross into the U.S. by air. Anticipating a rush on the documents, Passport Canada recently doubled its staff over the past two years. But these overemployed desk jockeys tommorrow in the November and December demand for passports actually fell below 2007 levels. In December, an average of 36,600 pass-



YOU'LL NEED A passport to get into the U.S. by car on June 1

ports issued daily, almost 2,000 less than the December before, says spokeswoman Joan Silkenau. Yet in January, the agency issued about 18,000 passports a day, roughly the same as the January before.

How slowpokes? "We don't have any special reasons," they say, suggesting the bad economy could be partly to blame. But a lack of public awareness might also be a factor. Last year, Passport Canada ran an aggressive media campaign—as newspapers, on the radio and elsewhere—to encourage people to apply. While the agency is now "working on" a new campaign, it has none under way at the moment, they say.

In fact, Passport Canada issued a record 4.1 million passports last fiscal year, but even so, only 54 per cent of Canadian citizens have one. If you're one who doesn't, and you're stopped at the border this summer—don't say we didn't warn you. ■

Dying stores morph into smoke shops



CONVIENCE stores have found a clever way to display cigarettes

BY RACHEL HENDERSON • When convenience stores across Canada were forced to cover up their cigarette displays with "power wall" legislation, their sales sank. But some businesses in New Brunswick have found a novel way to fight back. They're doing an end run around the laws banning tobacco displays by showing their doors to kids and getting kids to come in to convert their convenience stores into smoke shops.

Canadian Convenience Store Association president Dave Byers says it's "a desperate move" by a sector that's suffering through a huge crisis. The combination of a nasty new anti-plus tobacco advertising legislation has dealt a lethal blow to the sector, and they're doing whatever they can to survive. New data shows that during the past seven months, 1,375 independent stores across Canada have closed. In Alberta, 233 have closed; in New Brunswick, 58. "The overall business model is in true jeopardy," says Byers.

Convenience store owners can generally apply to become smoke shop tobacco sales account for more than half of their business. Tobacco typically accounts for 35 to 75 per cent of their sales, so many stores already qualify. As long as they agree to be under age customers, such stores are exempt from power wall legislation in some provinces.

Still, while ending pop and chips for kids and jokes now present no independent from going adult, "you're not going to be seeing a wide base of stores running away from their everyday business," says Byers. Instead, he says, many independent stores are trying to diversify by adding low food or a coffee bar. If anything, he says, the power wall legislation uncovered a fundamental weakness in the sector, he says. "Most retailers have relied too heavily on tobacco throughout their whole business lives." ■

CAPITAL DIARY

LAUREN SEES FEDORA FOR HAIRD

An honorary chair for the 2009 Fulltilt, a fundraiser on Mar. 26 for the Ottawa Humane Society, Lauren Harper recently pointed a camera dog bowl for the celebrity night. The bowl was done at Cotta (Mint), an Ottawa canine cafe to which Mrs. Harper promised to take her daughter, Rachel Harper, who has become more and more crafty. Other celebrity bowls were

hosted by Margaret Trudeau and figure skater Elizabeth Manley (which says "More Manley" at the bottom). The theme for this year's Fulltilt is inspired by the film *Cast Away*. The National Gallery's great hall will be transformed into "Rack's Cafe Adventure." So far, the PM's wife has taken for weeks of golf weekends and Transport Minister John Baird, her husband, "I'm going to be Rick [Baird]," says Mrs. Harper, referring to Elizabeth Taylor's character in the film. She says she is still looking for a fidon for Baird to wear.

PIPER HATTLE AT JUSTIN'S MOTION

History was made in the case of Piper Trudeau introduced his first prime minister's motion in the House. Justin Trudeau wants Parliament to study a "minimal military policy for young people." The MP said Canada's duty is to "make sure that young people who want to serve their country

get an opportunity to do so [throughout their lives]." Sitting alone in the opposition gallery above and watching Trudeau speak was Senator Joyce Fairbairn, who (Trudeau calls "Baird") Fairbairn has been on the Hill since 1963 and was Prime Trudeau's legislative assistant from 1970 and 1984. As Justin Trudeau made his opening

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON AN MP FIGHT OVER HOCKEY, AND WHO WASN'T LISTENING TO JUSTIN



JUSTIN TRUDEAU (top left), Hockey Day champion Linda Duncanson, Lauren Harper (center) with her Fulltilt bowl (the one with power), Ontario's Liberal leader Stephen Leacock and David Mulroney, Bob Day, (bottom) Joyce Fairbairn and Elizabeth Manley's dog bowl

speech in the sparsely filled chamber, five Grit MPs including Grits Kennedy and Scott Brison surrounded him as he looked as if the House was full for the camera. The deputy speaker in the chair, Andrew Scheer, gave Trudeau some nice time when the MP introduced his motion, but that had more to do with the fact the deputy

speaker was busy reading Quorum, the magic digits provided by the library of Parliament. Trudeau's fellow Liberal MP Maria Milosa was also busy reading Quorum and a few Conservatives were expressed in their lagos. The only fan fare was what sounded like a pipe chime (or perhaps a ghost rattling) in the House.

HOW BOB RAE'S COOKIE CRUMBLES

The new Senate pages were nearly overrun with pomp and happenings. But the real excitement was apparently the cookies at the reception, according to some page. Yana Rabinov, "The Senate gets their amazing cookies," she noted. Follow page: Three-way Grits told Rabinov she found out the secret to the cookies: "butter butter, half half." In other cookie news, students from St. Basil's Public School in Toronto moved on the Hill to celebrate Black History Month with jazz and cookies. They were part of the Children's Heritage Club, a program that helps deliver meals to children who often go without food in the morning. The kids were told to wait until the presentation were over before indulging in the treats, just as Bob Rae unveiled puppet a house in his mouth.

EK-FIGURE SKATER WANTS HOCKEY DAY

Edmonton NDP MP Linda Duncanson wants the third Friday of February to be National Hockey Day in Canada and has introduced a bill to make it so. There's much support for the NDP motion over the weekend season of the "Ile Fought everywhere," says Duncanson, noting that she hopes the day will not celebrate hockey fighting and "instead find a common space" and more social community. She says the bill among many that has led to the Order of Hockey when Parliament was proposed. She was surprised as one: she picked it up. Duncanson has never really played hockey, but she did figure skate as a kid. ■

ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa business and politics, visit ottawacommunity.ca or ottawapost.com

ON THE WEB: See www.ottawacommunity.ca for the complete national news and more. Next week in *Maclean's*: Canada's northern cities news

THE ENTERTAINMENT: Limbaugh hopes that Obama's economic agenda will be

★★★★★ 'THE BLUEPRINT FOR
LANDSLIDE VICTORY IS THERE'

Sensing a dead end in the water, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs later issued glib remarks to another Republican, "Do they want to see the President's economic agenda fail? Meanwhile, Stockpots quickly bucked down. "My intent was not to go after Rush—there's great mutual respect for Rush Lunscomb. I was really a little bit disappointed," he said. "There was no acceptance on any part to diminish his voice as a first leader." Other Democrats hope to see the speaker. Steele's Democratic counterpart, Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, said the apology "provides the unfortunate point that Lunscomb is the leading force behind the Republican party, its policies and its obstruction of 200

The 65 year old Reagan veteran Bonser tried to soothe the frustrated conservatives by reminding them of the years it took the party to come from the post-World War II political wilderness to the Reagan revolution. "The patient," he concluded, "has now died" (happen over night). ■

A SLAIN Pakistani policeman (above), the Afghan team last year, celebrating an international victory.

MORE THAN A GAME

CRICKET HAS OFTEN BEEN A BRIDGE BETWEEN ENEMIE

A decade ago, if anyone even mentioned

No longer, Pakistan had been set to co-host cricket's 2011 World Cup, along with India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. With Indian officials calling security in Lahore "hopelessly inadequate," thought, former Pakistani team captain Wasim Akram was one of many acknowledging that



Brooks' surreal life as a model staff, success reports. "They're so excited to have someone who's been real, who wants to be on the floor, who understands the customer."

Of course, as the case with anyone who's self-employed and high-achieving, Brooks "can be a frustrating child," says Riddell. "She can overanalyze, she has so many ideas and so many strategies. She's never doing in this right-of-the-moment and innovation. There can be a real of disruption and confusion. But at the end of the day the guys who she works she created things that are beautiful."

George Ylva and Pushberg say they were horrified when Brooks told them she was going to the Bay. "We said, 'Oh gosh, Brooks, what have you done?'" says Pushberg. But before long, they too were swept up. "We had all worked together on these high-end and custom stores and now there's a big behemoth of a Canadian store and how can you make it engaging and make it specifically Canadian, which would be kind of grocery," says Ylva. "She's got enormous challenges but if her buyers give her the scope she could make something pretty amazing, world class."

Just how much scope is possible in the cut-throat climate is the big question. Brooks has excelled in businesses run by rich owners with deep pockets. But the crash of Bay's other retail holdings raises uncertainty over his ability to fund HBC. New York retail analyst Howard Gordon, chairman of Davidowitz & Associates, says shades of Robert Campeau, another high-flying and estate in legal who dove headlong into retail, only to have it all crash down. He sees the recent Unilever and L'Oréal cutbacks in L'Oréal and L'Oréal as a sign that it's not clear if Henson's Bay Co. is tied into L'Oréal & Taylor's long-term strategy, David says. "There might not be a way to close the Bay and keep the Bay & Taylor or close L'Oréal & Taylor and keep the Bay."

But says the five-year plan is still viable. "We believe that Canada can certainly afford to have one well-run national department store," he says. "In the U.S., there are 10."

Brooks says the USA's retail giant is HBC. In the past two months, she's been in HBC in such better positions than many quality retail businesses. "We are still on the window's potential, which is much better than many of our U.S. neighbors."

Since her arrival, Brooks has been heaving up information. She emphasizes the data provided by Data & Company, even though the presence of retail consultants who have all of her's marketing strategy under the Bay's shopping cart and customer. "It's different by store type and customer," she says. She's willing to pick anyone's brain, even tanning the table on a Macdonald's croissant. "Do you shop at



THERE'S HUGE PRESSURE TO SUCCEED. IT'S A LITTLE DAUNTING,' SHE SAYS.



THE MAIN challenge will be to bring a sense of style and excitement to a chain that's widely seen as stale and boring.

the Bay?" she asks, talking notes.

Brooks' strategy will be outlined to the HBC board in April. Shoppers will see changes in the stores by late spring, she says. "Brand by brand, piece by piece, we'll build our share back." Her priority has been to review merchandise: many brands will be dropped, others added. Brooks has told vendors that she supports a "Bay Canadian" philosophy and that she's seeking exclusive international labels. When asked about the rumors she's in talks with Sears's Topshop, she laughs. "We're talking to a lot of interesting people," she says. "Which means there might be some real drama if Brooks begins pushing brands sold at H&M Berlin."

"The concern has been a re-evaluation of the overall plan, she says, before going a positive spin. "But it also has possibly opened up the process by encouraging us to become a more independent. We need to build and build to be somewhat better over the next year or

two, and that will give us a little more time to develop where we want to go." But she knows there's an urgent need to spend on stores and on service. "Oh, we're very aware of that," she laughs, quick to note that the lay-offs focused on the backroom and didn't touch the floor staff.

She has spent the day talking to designers and architects. She has talked to Ylva and Pushberg but her involvement has yet to be determined. Getting retail there is the challenge in Brooks's MO, says Riddell. "A local propensity to improve profitability by cutting costs and dumping doors, but Brooks' view is the opposite—you have to close up and drive customers and drive up to open them. She knows that big open stores have customers, whatever the level of margins."

Brooks's biggest challenge right now, says Shenson, is to hold tight. "I think her greatest challenge is being able to be patient because she knows exactly where she wants to take the business." This will be difficult for Brooks, says Baker, who observes that her friend throws herself into whatever she does "150 percent. She loses it and breathes it" she says. She's immersed in Brooks with her new assignment that she's reading Peter Novenson's three-volume history of the Hudson's Bay Company and managing her own closet. Her fall 2001 wardrobe, with its pieces from McQueen and Prada, was purchased at Lane Crawford, opening 1999 will come from the Bay. "I have my eye on the new brand collection from Isaac Mizrahi for the Clubroom. How you see it?" she asks, over the telephone. "It's not all the U.S. and Canadian fashion magazines for spring. For spring, I've got it in my closet." But, if anybody can change the Bay, it's Brooks. Which means that if she doesn't, no one ever will. ■

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LUNCH BREAKS COME BEFORE BROKEN BACKS

Robert Chambers, a British neurosurgeon, was filing his ambulance at a gas station last Monday. He was asked to help a man who'd broken his back during a fire. Chambers declined, stating that he was on his lunch break. The Health Professionals Council's (HPC) executive committee decided that he should not be punished, stating that Chambers had made a mistake, but his fitness to practice had not been compromised.

EMPLOYEE
of the
WEEK

ECONOWATCH

A WEEKLY SCORECARD ON THE
STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN
NORTH AMERICA AND BEYOND

LATEST INTELLIGENCE



STEVE MALACHUK

The pessimists will focus on the fact that U.S. gross domestic product tumbled at a rate of 5.2 per cent in the final months of last year. They will correctly point out that this dismal reading was the worst since early 1981. Domestic maynetists will chime in that Canada's 3.4 per cent decline was also ugly, and would've been worse if not for the fact that Canadian businesses kept churning out goods faster than they were being bought, driving up inventories and certainly worsening this year's economic pain.

The pessimists will, of course, dwell on the continued decline in U.S. durable goods orders (down another 1.2 per cent in January—a record with consecutive declines) and warn that the world's biggest economy is still going nowhere, no better. Naturally, they'll lament the still-plunging real estate markets on both sides of the border. And, of course, they'll point with horror at the U.S. Treasury Dept.'s new injection of another US\$300 billion in capital via AIG, prompted by the insurance giant's record US\$61.7 billion quarterly loss. Then there's the Dow Jones Industrial Average, still playing below 10,000 and the S&P 500 composite down more than 10,000 this week—the first time either index has been in that neighborhood since 1997.

No, don't play for the doves and gloom crowd to chew over. But the optimists? They can point their faith in Tiger Woods. Rana Chaudhri, chief investment strategist with CIBC World Wealth Management, noted last week that Canadian stocks peaked last June, just days after Woods landed victory at the U.S. Open. Woods went off for knee surgery and the stock market promptly tanked.

Woods' recent lay week was his first couple of months, coinciding with a modest rally in the stock market. Perhaps, Chaudhri joked, with Woods finally back and ready to dominate the world of golf again, the earth's economy has regained its balance, and a market bottom is in hand. "Suff it off, you'll, but have you got anything better to believe in right now?"

It must be noted, however, that given there was yet another plunge in consumer confidence last month, the pessimists will outnumber the optimists by a hefty margin. ■

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THE GOOD NEWS

Bank earnings

The large of Bay Street continue to offer a fairly even harbor from the storm hitting world markets. Canada's major banks reported total profits of \$3 billion in the first quarter and dividends rose steadily. Yes, I know, why should you celebrate the massive profits of our banks? Well, because, if they were suffering like U.S. banks, we'd have even more catastrophe than we already are.

Gas prices

You don't have to add your SUV to your monthly grocery list. One of the big signs of a global economic crisis is a less demand for oil. And while that is bad news for the Saudis,

economy overall, it means cheaper prices at the pumps. TD Bank projects Canadians can expect a year of stable prices, around 50 cents a litre—same as in 2004.

Personal income and spending

Post-Christmas sales landed a few Americans back into the doldrums in January, and produced an unexpected jump in incomes and spending. However, most people opted to pocket their increased income, pushing the U.S. savings rate to five per cent—the highest it's been since 1995. That curiously healthy and sensible trend, but it's yet another sign that Americans are preparing for darker days ahead.



THE BAD NEWS

Housing

All signs in the real estate market continue to be grim on both sides of the border. In Canada, the Toronto Real Estate Board's house price index declined for a fourth straight month. The results in the U.S. were even less encouraging. The National Association of Realtors reported house sales hit their slowest pace since 2001. The seasonal median house price is down 3.6 per cent from its 2006 peak to US\$170,300. They estimated a shrinking 4.5 per cent of all sales were of foreclosed and distressed properties. "Despite the seemingly constant chorus that the housing market is showing signs of stabilizing, the actual demand doesn't seem to be on pace yet," analyst Richard Moudy said.



Unemployment

We never hear of Americans filing for first time job benefits come again, to 667,000 last week. The total number receiving benefits topped 2.1 million—the 56th straight week that ongoing jobless claims have set a new record. Just 2.8 million were receiving benefits a year ago.

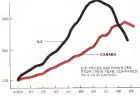
Capital investment

Sto-Can's annual survey of capital spending plans shows business plan to cut investment in machinery, equipment and buildings by a hefty 31.3 per cent this year. And who can blame them? Fourth quarter GDP numbers show bleak experts of goods and services down 4.7 per cent, personal spending falling by 3.3 per cent, manufacturing off by 4.3 per cent.



GRAPH OF THE WEEK: Betting the house

The U.S. Case-Shiller house price index shows the ongoing collapse of American real estate values, after an astonishing five-year surge. In Canada, the Toronto Board of Real Estate shows a more gradual rise but a sharp lull for the winter over the past few months.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES



The credit crunch has hit Italy harder than most countries, and the M&S credit's be biggest. According to Italy's national shopkeepers association, many small businesses have closed down since credit dried up, leaving an estimated 150,000 small business owners to borrow from underground credit syndicates. Annual interest rates are about 120 per cent, and repayment terms are also negotiable.

A year ago, such experts were sure that deal-up Internet service was on its last legs, with the worry story of the economy, Earth Link and NetScout are losing their lead and a stable business offering sites that (20 cents a day) and painfully slow dial-up Web access. The newspaper business continues to implode. Last week, Denver's Rocky Mountain News shut down, the owner of the Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News filed for bankruptcy, and Hearst Corp. said it will shut down the San Francisco Chronicle and news staff agree to major cost cuts. Meanwhile, Canada's biggest media company, CanWest, is scrambling to restructure ahead of a March 15 deadline.

Don't be too hard on yourself if your savings have crumpled. The world's greatest investor, Warren Buffett, revealed that his investment fund lost US\$1.1 billion (or almost 13 per cent) in 2008—the worst year on record. He's not panicking. "America has had an absence of challenges. Without fail, however, we've overcome them," wrote Buffett. "America's best days lie ahead."

"I expect the numbers to continue to get worse for some time. They will get better, eventually. But in the meantime, we have to get the attention dollars away from the economy to help Canadians help them get jobs and help [their] communities."

—Jan Flaherty, federal minister of finance

"These who have an expectation that things are going to recover dramatically and quickly is more naive than this, that's less and less likely all the time."

—Gordon Nixon, CEO, Royal Bank of Canada

"What is really troubling is the feeling of being in free fall. Where is the bottom? It's not here yet."

—Dale Cline, economist

"Once the global financial system stabilizes and global growth recovers, the underlying strength of the Canadian economy and financial sector should ensure a more rapid recovery in Canada than in most other industrialized economies."

—Mark Carney, governor, Bank of Canada

"Even with the sharp decline in fourth quarter GDP, the current quarter is expected to show an even deeper setback. Canada's recession began in earnest only in the fourth quarter."

"Simply put, the Bank of Canada is preparing to pull out all the stops to support the economy."

—Doug Porter, deputy chief economist RBC Capital Markets

OVERDRAWN by Jason Logan



THE WEEK AHEAD

THURSDAY: The very much needed housing index for February will come the housing activity among businesses. The index has been in negative territory (below 50) for the past three months running.

FRIDAY: The U.S. non-farm payrolls report is expected to show another sharp decline in the employment situation in the U.S. Analysts expect over 600,000 jobs were lost last month.

MONDAY: Canada will report housing starts for February. New home construction is now slowing at its slowest pace since 2001, and most economists are expecting that trend to continue for the time being.



BELOW: Jeff Carmel bore pain from the Q & A, hoping that he would regain the ability to walk through the different treatments available

TO CHINA FOR A CURE

For \$30,000, clinics offer stem cell therapies unavailable here. Do they deliver?

BY ALEXANDRA SHIMO • Chen is a nearly 40-year-old Canadian who is currently considered a world leader in surgical advances, but according to a number of his doctors (and the Canadian patients they've treated), his long-forgotten stem-cell medical treatments. A growing number of people are travelling to China for a \$30,000 experimental treatment: stem cell injections. Most, like New Brunswick's Jim Cloutier, 40, don't go to know they have a debilitating illness and then don't reach that Western medicine can do for them.

Like his brother, Joseph, Chen's (M.D.) a recent diagnosis of a disease that affects the body in similar way to Parkinson's, possibly a genetically inherited one, was diagnosed 10 years ago. It took some years for the young man to become noticeable. At first, only his voice faltered, and his coordination was affected. Then his speech began to suffer and he started shuffling his gait. In 2004, he had to stop work as an entry mechanic because his hands were no longer as precise as

in the past couple of years, he started seeing double. His family's life was overhauled because of pain, especially because Jim's mother had the same disease, and his grandfather died of it. His depression was compounded by the news that Chinese doctors had given him her complexly, one told him there was nothing to do but to wait for a face of his early death, says his wife, Chen's fiancée, "It's awful for a young man with a family to go in and hear that. It's heartbreaking."

Ms. Chen searched the Web and found stories of other M.D. patients who seemed to have been helped by stem cell therapy at various Chinese hospitals. Many of these good news stories are posted on personal blogs or on the websites of the clinics offering the treatment. There are thousands of these testimonials, suggesting that hundreds of people go every year, says Dr. Timothy Caulfield, Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy at the University of Alberta, who has published studies on this issue.

According to the Internet, these Chinese medical centres promise to cure a surprisingly extensive array of diseases and conditions, including ALS, autism, brain injuries, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, spinal muscular atrophy, stroke, stroke damage,

so [which can cause severe difficulties, blindness and mental retardation], spinal cord injuries and stroke. Foreigners are a major source of funds for the clinics. Some doctors like Dr. Huang Hongyuan, a neuroscientist at Beijing Xishui Hospital, have treated many patients from outside China, including some from Canada, and he has published a number of papers in Chinese medical journals touting patients pre- and post-procedure. And yet some North American doctors are critical of how the data was compiled, and the potential of the treatments on offer.

Once Juan Hsu decided to go, he told his plans to Guy Rouleau, a neurologist at Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, who said that while it was nice of him to come, and that he would probably be a source of money, but otherwise he didn't try to dissuade him. Raising the money for the trip was a task that captured much of the town of Châteauguay, N.B., picked up to raise the \$16,000, with neighbours taking home help, driving to help out, and the military and community organisations helping with breakfast and fund-raising. In April 2007, he and his wife travelled to Shenzhen, China, and stayed a little more than a month. During that time, Hsu had an appointment with a stem cell clinic, and an intense program of physiotherapy, exercise, massage and acupuncture. The results were modest, he says, but his balance improved just a few hours after the first procedure. Back in Canada, his neurologist confirmed that

Hsu had indeed gotten better, he had about 10 to 15 per cent more movement, according to Rouleau, who contacted him before and after the trip. It's difficult to speculate why this occurred, but Rouleau believes the intense physiotherapy was the primary cause.

When the couple returned from China, they wrote about their experience on the Web. Word got around, and soon hundreds of people were contacting them. Chen says: "A couple whose husband had a similar neurodegenerative disease even drove from Quebec to see them, and they subsequently decided to make the stem cell trip. Another couple flew in from Tulsa, Okla., and decided to go to China after seeing the home video of Juan's progress. These people were partly due to the stroke of Chinese doctors, Chen's belief. They would tell him to push himself, to be honest and every to 'remain his true,' the explanation 'I was tired while we were over there. I was put the word out because I know this works.'"

Even if patients believe their gains are from the treatment, the excessive progress at a short-term point of time. Any advance could be merely a placebo effect, as people often feel better after being treated, even if the procedure hasn't worked and the gains won't last, explains John Stevens, a professor at the college for interdisciplinary studies at the University of British Columbia who specializes in spinal cord injuries. Finding out whether any treatment really works requires clinical trials, and although Dr. Huang has published the results of his trials in Chinese medical journals, this data does not conform to international standards of medical analysis. Indeed, Stevens believes that deliberately flouting these standards to help his own clinic is "Dr. Huang has no interest doing a solid clinical trial because otherwise you have good results, his income would go up immediately," he says from his Vancouver office.

Patients, like Hsu, who seem to have been helped by stem cell treatment, are often eager to share their stories. They're becoming advocates for the Chinese medical route, Hsu's story is published on the website of the company that organized his medical visit in China. By contrast, it's more difficult to find people who haven't gotten better or who seem after spending \$30,000 on an experimental procedure. This might be because they feel duped, or because the Chinese stem cell treatment emphasizes empowerment—a "you can do it attitude." "Those who can't 'do it,' who go through the rigorous training program and end up not being able, may feel

unhappy, chastised, or they may take the lack of success personally and feel that they have somehow failed."

Minnesota resident Jeff Carmel, 58, doesn't feel like a failure, but having spent so much money, he is frustrated and disappointed. He lost the use of his legs when he fell off a soap ladder while fixing his father's barn. He has spent the past six years working with different doctors trying to learn to walk again, even flying to Quito, Ecuador, for an experimental operation (a nerve was removed from his legs and grafted onto his spinal cord, which cost a lot, but didn't really help). When Carmel's report first met Carmel at the Beijing Xishui



'WE SAW MIRACLES WHILE WE WERE OVER THERE. WE PUT THE WORD OUT—THIS WORKS.'



CARMEL was frustrated once he got home. Ultimately, he didn't feel better

Hospital after stem cell treatment, he was enthusiastic and believed the operation he'd had a couple of weeks earlier had allowed some of the shattering leg pain he'd felt ever since his accident. But when contacted a few weeks after he returned to the United States, he was more depressed, and said the operation hadn't really made any difference. Negative comments aren't easily reported, but they are more common than the Chinese hospitals would have you think, says Jones

Guentz, a professor of neurological surgery at the University of Ottawa. He visited Huang in Beijing in the summer of 2004 to sample and see the Beijing-based stem cell therapy. The results were inconclusive, he says. Following up, he went to a further, and continued spinal cord injury patients pre- and post-treatment in China. The results, published in 2006 in the journal *Neuroscience* and *Neural Repair*, make clear the difference between what the doctors say and what patients want to believe. Of the seven, six thought they recovered some limb movement, although at most cases the physicians remained very little difference.

After his extensive gain, a 39-year-old chronic, burning back pain that interfered with the patient to stop taking painkillers. Another patient had lower muscle spasms after the procedure and could walk his left hand a little more, although he played guitar 10 months later to stop the surgery. On the downside, there were also some negative results: a 32-year-old contracted meningitis, pneumonia and postoperative bleeding, which were managed with heavy antibiotics, and another had a liver and colon cancer along with a diagnosis. Guentz is critical of the Chinese stem cell treatments, he believes some doctors are "motivated by profit" and "they place patients at risk for therapies which have minimal effect."

Eight months after travelling to China, Hsu was struggling with the symptoms of Michael's Joseph disease. He was having problems walking and was falling again. The family still had some money left over from their families, so they decided to make another trip to China, and took out a small loan. In March 2008, he and his wife went to China, this time to Qingdao in eastern China—the first hospital would accept them in doing a first non-patients Chinese patients over foreigners, explains Chen. After four weeks of treatment, Hsu had more energy and there were slight improvements in his balance and speech, he says. However, the gains didn't last. "I was told that I would be able to walk as before the first trip. Nevertheless, despite the cure, and the obvious signs of success, the family would like to return again if they could afford it. "I would go wherever if we could," Chen says. "I got people hope." ■

OUR MOST ABUNDANT RESOURCE IS GOOD FOR YOU like milk and pure snow is being touted among healthy food experts as a new "super food." Snow's naturally mild acidity is said to cleanse the body and in kidney health and even alleviate the symptoms of arthritis. And a University of Western Australia study found that children who drink the purest New Zealand snow (as it's been found to be) have fewer colds and get sick less often. However, that the colour of the snow is important.

Tonic



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Building Vibrant Communities



Cycling for Our Community



In the early hours of May 21, 2008, 18 Scotiabank employees from Toronto North cycled to Orillia, Ontario for two charities - AboutFace and Rock Hansen Wheels in Motion.

AboutFace is a national charity dedicated to promoting the abilities of individuals with facial disfigurements. Rock Hansen Wheels in Motion raises funds to improve the quality of life for people with spinal cord injury.

The Second Annual Scotiabank Tour de Toronto North is a two-day, 265 kilometre bicycle expedition to Orillia and back. The cyclists and support team braved the elements but their commitment kept them going.



"Our participation in the annual charity bike-a-thon has become a tradition for me, and I feel very proud and privileged to be a part of the team."

Susan Nichol, Scotiabank District Vice President

Back at the branches staff led a fundraising drive that included barbecues, raffles, car washes and bike sales. The Toronto North team of 25 Scotiabank branches, raised just over \$90,000 in support of the two charities, including \$15,000 from the Team Scotia Community Program, which contributes to funds raised by Scotiabank employees.

Every day, Scotiabank employees work to make a difference in their communities across Canada. We're proud that our team helped kids in need and raised funding for people with spinal cord injury.

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IN IT FOR THE LONG TERM

Almost 60% of Caring Company Leaders have done relationships of more than ten years. One company, Scotiabank, has built a partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada that has spanned more than 40 years. According to Vincent Power, Associate Vice-President, Corporate Communications, "This relationship has had the support of Senior Management over several decades and has evolved from cash donations to in-kind support leveraged from customers, employees, suppliers and mutual donations."

Long-term, in-kind commitments like this one are likely to be on the rise as Caring Company Leaders indicate that partner ships will increasingly replace cash-only donations.

HOW COMPANIES GIVE

Companies recognize that leveraging all of their assets can provide valuable support for charitable and nonprofit organizations. Now, as demand for the programs and services of charities and nonprofit organizations is on the rise, business support is critically important and Caring Company Leaders are here to lead by example. Nine of ten Caring Company leaders provide support to their community partners in 3 or more ways, which allows half

employ a broader array of 5 or more methods of giving (see Activity Chart).

CASH IS KING

Ninety-six percent of survey respondents indicate that they make cash donations, representing the largest concentration of support. But deciding how to choose among 161,000 charitable and nonprofit organizations vying for support is clearly a growing challenge. Many survey respondents spoke to the overwhelming demand for funding and the pressure to be more focused in their giving.

Pfizer Canada gives in excess of \$25 million a year to more than 1,000 organizations and projects. Most of their decisions are strategic. And by publicly disclosing how their decisions are made they minimize the number of organizations they have to turn down.

SPONSORSHIPS BUILD COMMUNITY

For many years companies have recognized the value of providing direct sponsorship support to charitable and nonprofit organizations. These events - whether for fundraising, new program development or service expansion - offer valuable opportunities for charitable and corporate awareness, brand building and exposure. CN sees a clear link between safe and healthy living, a strong community spirit and sports. It looks for sponsorship opportunities that provide an opportunity to give back to the community. With the CN Canadian Women's Open golf tournament, for example, the railway established the CN Muscle March program to support a children's hospital in the host city each year. E. Hazen Harrison, President and CEO of CN believes that, "by helping to build safer, stronger communities, CN and its employees contribute in meaningful ways that reflect our company's core values."

CARING COMPANIES ACTIVITY CHART

Company	Cash	In-kind	Staff	Volunteer	Other
Academy Savings Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Autobanc Canada Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Bayer Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
BC Hydro	+	+	+	+	+
Canadian Credit Union	+	+	+	+	+
Chelart Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
CIBC	+	+	+	+	+
CN	+	+	+	+	+
Coast Capital Savings	+	+	+	+	+
Community Savings Credit Union	+	+	+	+	+
Dextery Consulting	+	+	+	+	+
Edinburg Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
EnCana Corporation	+	+	+	+	+
ENMAX Corporation	+	+	+	+	+
Envision Financial	+	+	+	+	+
Farm Credit Canada	+	+	+	+	+
First Calgary Savings	+	+	+	+	+
GrantStadium Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Hendrick Partners LLP	+	+	+	+	+
Hightower Asset Management	+	+	+	+	+
Janta Services Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Kitchener Canada Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Maclean's Investments	+	+	+	+	+
Masella Financial	+	+	+	+	+
Neum Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Nysan Ltd.	+	+	+	+	+
Plan Canada	+	+	+	+	+
Power Corporation of Canada	+	+	+	+	+
Priorities Food Cooper	+	+	+	+	+
RBC	+	+	+	+	+
Sandstone Asset Management	+	+	+	+	+
SaskTel	+	+	+	+	+
Scotiabank	+	+	+	+	+
Scotiabank Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Selwyns Brevit & Financial Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Shipping Drug Mart	+	+	+	+	+
Solomon Elliott LLP	+	+	+	+	+
Superior Credit Union	+	+	+	+	+
Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
TB Bank Financial Group	+	+	+	+	+
TELUS	+	+	+	+	+
The Co-operators	+	+	+	+	+
Techworld Communications Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
TransAlta	+	+	+	+	+
Tricor Homes	+	+	+	+	+
Verona Schme Editorial Services Inc.	+	+	+	+	+
Westminster Savings Credit Union	+	+	+	+	+
Woodbine Entertainment Group	+	+	+	+	+
Xerox Canada	+	+	+	+	+

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SHARE THE WARMTH: HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

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The goal of this partnership is to improve the energy efficiency in the homes of low-income Saskatchewan families, especially during challenging winters. Families benefit with lower energy costs while learning about simple and inexpensive home energy efficiency options. Program partners and other community volunteers come together to perform energy efficiency upgrades in low-income homes in both urban and rural communities throughout Saskatchewan.

Share the Warmth program has helped 974 families to become more energy efficient. The program goal is to help 2,500 Saskatchewan families by the year 2010.

THE GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

PARTNERS
TD Bank Financial Group
Vancouver Aquarium
TD Friends of the Environment
Foundation

The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup is a direct action conservation program that aims to promote understanding and education about shoreline litter issues by engaging Canadians to rehabilitate shoreline areas through annual cleanups. Vancouver Aquarium volunteers manage, market, recruit and communicate the importance of participating in this Canadian initiative. In 2008, this collaborative partnership brought together 62,000 participants from across Canada to clean up more than 2,300km of shoreline.

THE RED CROSS CALL CENTRE

PARTNERS
TELUS
Canadian Red Cross society
Metland Region
Government of BC (PEF)

The Red Cross Call Centre is an integral part of British Columbia's Disaster Response Centre. Using the CallCentreAnywhere TELUS technology allows Canadian Red Cross volunteers and staff to login and receive calls wherever they may be during a crisis. This collaboration allowed them with expertise in disaster management to access telecommunication experts, system hardware, training professionals and the volunteer support of TELUS' trained pool of call agents.

The Red Cross Call Centre can be operational 7 days a week, 24 hours per day during major emergencies. More than 80% of disaster relief communication is carried out by volunteers.

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The 12th Annual Awards were presented at a ceremony in Vancouver, BC on March 5, 2008. Established in 1996, the Canadian Business & Community Partnership Awards recognize and celebrate outstanding partnerships between business and nonprofit organizations that are finding innovative ways to support and strengthen Canadian communities.

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LEAD > BY EXAMPLE

THE SEXTING SCARE

Though no 'epidemic,' it raises big issues for parents and the law

BY ANNE KIRKSTON • In July, my 11-year-olds in Greensburg, Pa.—three girls and three boys all under the age of 10—were charged with child pornography for sending and receiving nude pictures of themselves via cellphone after the images were downloaded by a high school teacher. Within weeks, sexting "texting" to use the candy images, had become a sexting epidemic in the U.S., with a flurry of criminal charges, ranging from possession of child pornography to the lesser felony of indecency, being laid in more than a dozen states.

With the concerned clucking that inevitably attends coverage of teenage sexuality, the U.S. media—from *Newsweek* to *Katie Couric*—went all over it. Fox News called sexting "the new craze all over the country among 11- to 17-year-old adolescents." *The New York Times* included "evidence" in the form of photos of scantily clad girls.

For the statistical proof of a sexting epidemic is found: one large survey sponsored by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unintended Pregnancy and *Common Sense Media* reported that 23 percent of girls and 18 percent of boys have electronically sent or posted nude or semi-nude images, even though 75 percent knew it could have serious negative consequences.

That kids use what they believe is the private domain of their cellphones to text sexy pictures is hardly surprising. What U.S. law enforcement views as pornography, teenagers see as high tech flirting, oblivious to its own gross consequences. Facebook and MySpace are filled with groups like "I've Seen Naked Pictures of Myself Over the Phone." Nor is it shocking that a teenager who receives nude images is tempted to share it—which is where the risk begins.

"These kinds of images are so ubiquitous, some don't see them as shocking," says M.G. Durham, author of *The Lolita Effect: The Media Sensationalization of Young Girls' Sex* and *Can We Do About It?* "They see them as an acceptable way of representing themselves."

Feelings are rarely a reminder of how risky seriously pornographic communication can be. Teenagers' casual willingness to provide pictures of themselves is only half the risk. A 14-year-old Florida boy charged this week with transmitting pornography

after he sent a photo of his genitalia to a female classmate explained he didn't because he was "bored."

"The discussion has yet to migrate beyond the borders, where police say sexting isn't on their radar. 'We expect sex, but we haven't seen it,'" says Dr. Corie Deane Reyle of the Toronto Police Service's youth services, child exploitation unit. Reyle regularly speaks to teenagers in Grades 7 to 12 and recently asked them about sexting. "They'd heard of

sexting," she says. "But no girls I know would do it," she says. Another girl expressed frustration with the Internet's freedom. "I'm really tired about spaces that make all teenage girls look like sluts," she says.

In Canada, it's not illegal for two teenagers under the age of 18 to carry small photographs of each another, provided it's for private viewing only. "The Supreme Court says that minors can possess sexual images of themselves and others in a consensual activity, but when it's distributed, it becomes child pornography," explains Toronto criminal lawyer Frank Adkins.

"The bright line between harmless and criminal," he says, "is whether the photo is for a social purpose. If you have an image of a naked teen popping around the Internet, a police officer somewhere is going to see it and lay a charge." And that charge, he says, would be against the minor who distributed it, not the minor who'd created the photograph.

Reyle says her colleagues have debated how they'd handle sexting complaints, which means they're aware. "Do we really want to charge a child for distribution or possession of child porn?" she asks. "We'd have to look at the circumstances, to see if the situation was abusive. In some cases it might be charged on the basis of others that it's just a lesson." Teaching a lesson is what U.S. authorities are trying to do, though charges are

child as a sexual offender is a harsh remedy with lifelong implications.

Durham believes the conversation about sexting is an important one, even though she questions whether it's as common as reports suggest. The media focus is useful, she says. "It's meaningful to bring legal questions about how a society, we should deal with the impact of new technologies on our lives, and on kids' lives in particular." ■



SEXTING taps into adolescents' love of tech and technology

it," she says. "But the general view was that it had been hyped by the media, like it's the new thing to worry about—sex, cell phones, sexting."

Obviously, teenagers might be reluctant to tell a cop they're sending or receiving naked self-portraits. Yet an informal poll of nine teenagers ranging in age from 13 to 18 yielded similar findings: One 16-year-old girl says she's never had the urge, though she didn't

PENNSYLVANIA: MULES CAN'T BE TOOLS OF TERROR
In its continuing aim to keep U.S. modes of transport safe from terrorism, the Transportation Security Administration is requesting people consider wearing explosives in mules that just passed through an editorial panel to apply for Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, which includes a criminal background check. "We have one boat," says park director Sarah Hoy. "It's piloted by two mules. On a good day they might go two miles per hour."



ALWAYS THE WRITER IN EXILE

The private battles of one of Canada's greatest provocateurs

BY SIANNE GEORGE • M.G. Vassari, one of Canada's pre-eminent novelists, experienced his first moment of kindness with the late, great Marlene Bachler at a writer's dinner in Sydney, Australia, more than two decades ago. At that time, Vassari—born in Kenya, raised in Tanzania, and settled in Canadian 1978—had just published his first novel, *The Gypsy Snake*. A nuclear physicist by training, Vassari was critically new to the literary

"scene," and he knew none of the luminaries, or its etiquette. But he knew about Richard. "Fortified by Scotch, his elegant wife, Ploree was, by his side," Vassari writes. Richard was in his glory, already a star.

For Vassari, the prospect of meeting a star in a cramped, narrow bookstore that day felt nightmarish, a nightmare that Richard turned so easily recognizable. "I recall Richard's sympathy and encouragement during that occasion," he writes in his new biography, *Marlene Bachler*, "and his willing me I should do more justice to my work in my readings."

THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, Richard struggled to define his identity as a Canadian and a Jew. I had spent time, even, in my prime." He was touched that Richard—Canada's (Barrington) right-to-leave—addressed him as a peer, as "just another Canadian writer."

Back in Toronto, Richard and Vassari talked about arranging a chat to better know each other, but neither man was really the chatty type, and those conversations never happened. Richard died of cancer, at 70, in 2005. Many years later, as Vassari delved into Richard's life and work, he realized they would have had much to talk about. "We both grew up in an urban colonial setting," Vassari writes, "in closed, religiously observant, Jewish communities. One in Montreal, the other in Detroit, Salinas, Tanzania. Who could have guessed such a commonality in our such diverse lives?"

In his past lives, Richard noticeably relied against racist and anti-Semitic programs for big money was so better than a funded the bars for what Vassari calls the "media caricature" of the man. Richard is somewhat poorly personable, pushing himself for the thrill of it. But in his focus, Vassari says, complex questions of identity and belonging—in Canada, and to the right to Jewish community within it—obsessed him. "Through most of his adult life, it was these two obsessions—on the one hand, a small nation with only a thin veneer of history, as he saw it, culturally and politically weak; on the other, an ancient tradition with a baggage of too much history and tradition that he wanted to come to terms with."

Richard's story begins and remains deeply rooted in the Montreal of his youth, St. Urban Street in particular, the heart of the Jewish working class ghetto. Montreal, Canada's most cosmopolitan city at mid-century, was a city of immigrants, where French Canadians, WASPs and Jews lived side by side in isolation and mutual contempt. "A wonderful breeding ground for stories," says Vassari.

Richard famously rejected the confines of traditional Jewish life and the "bourgeois" and "apathetic" aspects of Canadian culture. Still, though he spent decades living abroad, mostly in London, he kept his roots firmly planted on home—and kept his Montreal life on the pages of *The Apartment* by David Krentz, St. Urban's Hymenoteum and others, which he returned to Canada permanently in 1975.

It was not until after a visit to Israel in his sixties that Richard fully appreciated back home about his native land, offering up this beautiful, if backhanded, tribute: "After two weeks in a land choked by the clinging vines of its past, a



10. HANGLANT, M. R. 1979.

1990

—back

22

100

2000

100

HERALD'S character, Izzy Stevens, seems close to being written out of the popular show.

she wears a shadow, as when *Scrubs* and *UglyT*, but she's determined not to judge a star's choice of partners, and the ability to make the most of a part in *Grey's Anatomy*, she stood out in a huge ensemble cast, in *Knocked Up*, she became the first woman to make an impression in Judd Apatow's gay-oriented movie universe. There's in *27 Dresses*, in which she proved she could carry a movie on her own, and she drew the audience film bar, and that's what makes a star.

But there's a big difference between being a TV star who dabbles in movies and someone who actually lives to come to the movie.

GEORGE CLOONEY made it big after *Grey's Anatomy* still struggles



Even if she does leave 'Grey's Anatomy,' Heigl probably won't lack for work—at first

project that required a TV star, not a movie star, Judd Apatow's movie franchise may soon have him in charge of every comedy movie on the planet, but it's a very television-oriented franchise, built around actors who worked with him on *The 40 Year-Old Virgin* and *Geeky*, and go together in a film, reminding victory may Heigl may be the glass one in *Knocked Up* compared to Seth Rogen, but they were both comically self-victim people on the big screen.

There's not a problem if you make your movie career in low budget comedies like *Rings* but Heigl's upcoming movie, *The*



According to TV: THE OSCARS
 "They're asking about *Grey's* due to the economy." To give you an idea, *John Adams* is being assembled in Mexico. "Any line I think *WALL-E* should have gotten a Best Picture nomination. It's an amazing story about a robot in creation getting with a human. It's the best on the list of all of it." —Craig Ferguson
 "It's *Always, Always, Always*! *Bully* is going to be a Golden Globe winner's ball, but he went into the fountain under it." —Jimmy Kimmel

Ugly Book, it's a glossy romance, comedy in which the girl's a successful woman who finds love with a male character (George Clooney). Selling that kind of movie usually requires a glamorous movie star, not a TV actor on the big screen. There's a reason why Steve Carell usually plays incompetent idiots in the movies as well as television. TV actors are sought to play smaller than-life parts on film. Heigl's trying to do something trickier: go from smaller-than-life cure TV doctor to larger-than-life man on a star.

It's especially tricky because the TV actor who leaves a show (or even while the show's still on) may find that his or her movie career was completely dependent on being a TV star. Clooney was one, *Anatomy* movie career lifted for several years, only recently recovering with *Marley & Me*. And he was the lucky one; the other *Friends* stopped getting any more roles at all once their TV show was up, and they're back on television where they belong. For every George Clooney at Johnny Depp who gets into movies and never goes back to TV (except as a charity person, like Clooney's March 12 guest shot on *ER*), there are many more actors like David Caruso or Christina Applegate, who count themselves lucky to get a TV series again after their movie career really took off.

Meanwhile, it usually turns out that TV shows and their stars don't last the same need them. *Grey's Anatomy* has lost actors before without losing ratings (remember *Julie* [Washington] and might even imagine a little one the writers stop having to pretend that they know how to write for little "in the old days," Thompson says, "if an actor leaves, it can really be catastrophic. Now that we've got these enormous casts, not only does it cost a crazy amount of money to do the show by having someone leave, I think it can be quite healthy." So, the actor, a departure by Katherine Heigl could be good for everyone: the show gets a fresh cast, some new characters and a ratings-grubbing work-off for time. Heigl goes to move on to the next phase of her career. Like her new movie after *The Ugly Book* a thriller called *The Baller*, co-starring her and *Knocked Up* but not making it with *Knocked Up* really a happy-go-lucky about with a ghost? The answer to that may depend on Katherine Heigl's whole career from now on. ■



EVERYDAY CAPPERS The suave subjects of Scott Schuman's photos aren't dressing to impress anyone but themselves, and it shows



These are the real people with style

Scott Schuman looks all over the world for elegant and inspiring fashion originals

BY ANNE KINSTON • Last week, after London's South Bankside, Scott Schuman

spotted a young woman dressed in a red and black check jacket, black tights and socks, denim shorts and lace-up shoes. "She looked great," he says. "Her hair looked great, too." He asked if he could photograph her for his blog, *The Sartorialist*. She said yes. "We almost fell over the day she was happy," he says. Of course she was. Any one with a passing interest in fashion knows the six-year-old New Yorker is the world's top anonymous style blogger, so influential that the fashion industry, sometimes aghast years of mass-label clothing, now actually looks to bloggers, enjoying all the life lessons for inspiration. There's more than a touch of irony here, in that Schuman couldn't give a *Sartorialist* about showcasing labels or designers. He launched his anonymous blogger site in 2005 to display photos of people in the street whose style inspired him. The list they don't look like they belong in magazine was the point. "I'd say my whole thing looked really cool but didn't look like I was trying to be the images, particularly old school Italian and really tailored guys," he says.

Schuman is a downtown Rose Bunker, digitally capturing young and old, rich and poor, male and female and elderly dating in Harlem is recorded the same respect as a Parisian gamine who wears *Hilmi* with vintage. His eye was honed by marketing for high-end designers and then running his own showrooms, which he closed in 2000. He draws the romance of fashion, which is why he loves shooting in Milan, a place that's just old school enough. "It's because open 'If you're looking for something, you're

going to miss something else," he says.

Being a blog on his passion has paved the way to a lucrative second career. Dirk Szustak, editor-in-chief of Conde Nast's *Style*, the online brand of *Vogue* and *W*, hired Schuman in 2006 to cover the scene around European fashion week. "Scott does street photography to a higher level," he says. "His doesn't just snap people, he directs them, he really sees of lighting, the way they're standing, the background. That professional level is what you see." His work also appears regularly in *Q* and *Esquire*. Last year, *Time* named him "one of the top 100 design influences." This fall, *Proquest* UK is publishing 500 images from the blog in a paperback and, finally, a hardcover "bookish" edition.

Tracking the site, which had 2.6 million hits in February, is usually a mission for industry editors. Commenters are devoted, offering glowing opinions about the merits of new styles and what the provenance of a particular scarf, and how to identify Italian by the length of their ties. It's plugged in crowd. Hours after the photo of the woman in the check jacket, labeled "Buffalo Girl, London," went up, she was identified as *Teen* model Sarah Nichol (1986).

Schuman, an affable, articulate fellow, is clearly aware he's building his own brand

He says from the "anonymous photographer" label with its ring of adolescent invisibility. "It's more that I shoot real-life situations but in a very romantic way," he says, speaking from London where he's covering in fashion week. "I think that's why a lot of people in the business are unimpressed by it." Hoping on trends holds no interest for him. "This isn't a shopping site," he says. "I'm not trying to sell products. I'm trying to take pictures that make people dress and be inspired and maybe look at their wardrobe and think, 'That's why I don't talk about brands.'"

But friends trying to sell product are starting up to rock his line. *LOVE* Jean had him to shoot its spring summer 2009 campaign. Hani Dorianville, the creative director at a agency *Lauri + Partners*, says the client approved the models, but Schuman was given carte blanche for styling and set up. "We were careful not to interfere with that sense of authenticity," says Dorianville, evenly making the contradiction.

In London, Schuman met with *Barney*, which also wants to collaborate. "I think they realize that there aren't a lot of things in any kind of media that are real, real, that are real and more," he says. The top blogger who's (The *Real* fitting at London's legendary label *Anderson & Sheppard*. Don't expect a photo. Schuman used to shoot him self when the site was smaller. "Now I feel just so conscious, so much about me. The *Sartorialist*'s bigger than me now." ■



THE LATEST THING IN: PIRATES

Given take a long time to get it, but now we can get it. Former belly dancer, then to a variety of "companion shoes" and "sister sisters" (the collar-upon garments are better described as "invisibles" delivered by So Sewell, the "body-shaping bitch" online a former *Shore* dancer in a shimmering corset-and-lace band attached to conventional heels)



KATE BEATON's macgyvering a fast find her work 'delightful, funny and endearing,' even if they don't get the Canadian references

Making fun of Canadian history

This 25-year-old's comics feature characters like John Diefenbaker and Margaret Trudeau

BY ALEXANDRA HIRSH • Who better to poke fun at our past than a 25-year-old comic artist? Kate Beaton, a Toronto-based cartoonist who has been making fun of our past for years, is now making fun of our present. In her latest comic, she takes on the 25th anniversary of the 1982 patriation of the Constitution, which was unusual enough to have sparked the sort of press most writers spend a lifetime cultivating.

Originally from Cape Breton, Beaton is a Toronto-based cartoonist who has been making fun of our past for years. In her latest comic, she takes on the 25th anniversary of the 1982 patriation of the Constitution, which was unusual enough to have sparked the sort of press most writers spend a lifetime cultivating. Beaton's work is a mix of satire and social commentary. She has been making fun of our past for years. In her latest comic, she takes on the 25th anniversary of the 1982 patriation of the Constitution, which was unusual enough to have sparked the sort of press most writers spend a lifetime cultivating.

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Are you eating well for your active lifestyle?

MANY CANADIANS understand the connection between nutrition and health. In a new Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Dietitians of Canada, eight in ten Canadians agree that "their eating habits will help them live a long and healthy life. However, half of the respondents said their eating habits need a lot of improvement, while 85 percent said they could use some improvement. These Canadians are correct – the vast majority could use some diet tips.

According to Statistics Canada, the majority of Canadians do not eat enough vegetables, fruits or milk products, all of which contribute important nutrients to the diet. Of some concern, almost 25 percent of the Canadians consume some form of "other" foods, which include nutrient-poor fare like pop, chocolate and chips.

When it comes to physical activity, statistics show that only half of all Canadians get some form of exercise – from walking to biking to dancing – a few times a week. The good news is that the number of active Canadians is slowly increasing, suggesting the message about fitness and health is starting to sink in.

Canadians need to eat better and move more in an effort to cut down disease risk and enhance overall quality of life. Providing

nutrition and healthy eating advice to help Canadians fuel their active lifestyles is the focus of Dietitians of Canada's 2009 Nutrition Month® campaign.

Stay active. Eat like a champion.

It's important to be active, but physical fitness is only half of the health-lifestyle equation. When you eat matters, too! According to Nova Scotia dietitian Heather Petre, MSc, PhD, "healthy eating

ERICA'S STORY

Erica is a 39-year-old mother of three. Her doctor has advised her to see a registered dietitian to help her safely lose 25 pounds. She found a dietitian (by searching at www.dietitians.ca/find) who will help enhance her nutrition regimen. At her first appointment, her dietitian suggests that Erica keep a journal of everything she eats and drinks for one week. Erica will encourage to walk her dog daily, and will also start a yoga class and resume her weekly run, which she hasn't done in two years. We'll follow Erica as she tries to reach her goals.



Dietitians of Canada
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In 2002, the Guinness World Records awarded Dailies.com's Erica Davidson with the most body piercings: 462. Nine years later she has added 6,005 studs and rings over her face and body, including 1,500 she describes as "internal." Dailies Davidson admits that turning her body into a metallic work of art is painful. "It isn't very exciting, period, but I'm happy I decided to change myself and be me." She works as a nurse in Edinburgh.



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Photo: iStockphoto.com/Scott Green

What should active people eat?

A healthy diet can be achieved by following *Eating Well* with Canada's Food Guide (see chart below). "Whether you are an elite athlete or a weekend player, the nutrition basics in the Food Guide still apply," Peiris says. By following the guide, you get the essential nutrients (carbohydrates, protein, fat, vitamins and minerals) you need each day. Peiris notes that "people who are very active, like competitive athletes, may need more servings than the food guide recommends" and adds that "guzzling training may increase the need for certain vitamins and minerals. Elite athletes should consult a registered sports dietitian (find www.dietitians.ca/find).

Power your workout with food

While a quiet meal won't require any special dietary changes, people who exercise for 30-60

minutes daily should consider their food choices before and after activity. Enjoying a small meal or snack a few hours before strenuous activity can help fuel energy levels. The snack should include fluid, easy-to-digest, carbohydrates (like pasta, bread or fruit) and a small amount of protein and fat. Eating too much fat or protein before vigorous exercise could result in stomach upset, since these foods take a while to digest.

Good pre-exercise food choices are a peanut-butter-and-banana sandwich



Food Group*	ADULTS			
	15-50		51+	
	Females	Males	Females	Males
Vegetables and Fruit	7-8	8-10	7	7
Grain Products	6-7	8	6	7
Milk and Alternatives	2	2	2	2
Meat and Alternatives	2	3	2	2

*To learn about portion serving sizes, visit www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide

Total water guidelines for people aged 14-19

	Total water intake per day*
male	3.3 - 3.7 L (34 - 38 cups)
female	2.8 - 3.3 L (30 - 35 cups)

* Includes water from drink, up water, soups and food

with water or whole grain cereal with milk and berries.

After a strenuous workout or demanding game, the body needs carbohydrates to refuel muscles, protein to repair muscles, and water to replace sweat losses. Good choices include:

- Bananas with chocolate milk
- Whole grain pita with hummus and soy beverage
- Crackers, low-fat cheese and 100% fruit juice

The Fluid Game

For proper hydration it's important to meet daily water needs. This does not just mean drinking plain water. Fluids like juice, milk, soy beverages, coffee or tea are mostly water. Many foods also contain water, such as soup, watermelon, oranges and grapes.

Peiris reminds active people that, "if you sweat when you are physically active it is important to replenish the fluid that is lost." This sweat-replacement rule holds true whether you are playing a 30-minute tennis match or running a marathon.

CHECKING IN WITH ERICA

After one month, Erica has lost five pounds. The trouble is, she feels tired and lethargic. Her dietitian reviews her food journal and sees the problem: Erica made the mistake of drastically cutting her food intake while increasing exercise at the same time. The dietitian explains that Erica's body requires fuel from food to power a workout, and Erica must nourish herself before and after exercise. She adds more calories to Erica's plan, but insists her daily calorie count is still low enough that Erica can reach her weight goal without compromising her nutritional needs.



Dietitians of Canada
Les diététistes du Canada

SOME FINE TUNING FOR ERICA

Erica's weight loss has stalled this month. When she dietitian examines her food intake journal, she notices that Erica frequently consumes sports drinks after walking her dog. The dietitian explains that while sports drinks are helpful during prolonged or vigorous exercise, they are not required after a leisurely walk. Erica didn't realize that most sports drinks contain 30-40 calories per cup and that the drinks she was consuming were putting all the calories burned on her walks back into her body. That's why her weight loss had stalled!

Fitness enthusiasts should consider these guidelines from the American College of Sports Medicine:

- Drink 1-2 cups of fluid Q-3 cups for long or people four hours before exercise
- Observe the colour of your urine – if it is pale yellow you are probably well hydrated. If it is dark yellow you may be dehydrated, so drink a little more.

During exercise, drink to help replace water lost in sweat. How much? There's no one size fits all answer as we all sweat at different rates. Keep water handy and sip it during your workout. When you're sweating heavily or it is hot, drink more. If you have remained well hydrated throughout the activity, let your thirst guide your post game fluid needs. When participating in team sports or tournaments, be sure to drink right after the game to keep up with sweat loss.

When are sports drinks helpful?

Sports drinks are most beneficial for intense or prolonged activities with high sweat loss. Formulated with a combination of water, carbohydrates and electrolytes (sodium and potassium), sports drinks are designed to replace fluids during intense activities and to provide energy (carbohydrates) to the brain and muscles.

What about energy drinks?

Not to be confused with sports drinks, energy drinks are high in sugar and contain stimulants such as caffeine. Their high sugar content can cause stomach upset during exercise, and the caffeine in some energy drinks can make it difficult to drink enough fluid to stay hydrated.

Supplements

Sport shelves are lined with nutritional supplements that promise to help you work out more efficiently and gain strength more quickly. But are supplements necessary for physically active people?

Protein: Canadians interested in gaining muscle mass through weight training may need a little extra protein, but it is easy to obtain through common foods (chicken, fish, dairy). Supplements are not necessary. As Protein notes, "Basic protein powders are just another form of protein, no more or less effective than protein rich foods for muscle building, but usually pricier."



Vitamins and minerals: Eating a variety of foods, as suggested by Canada's Food Guide, should help meet nutrient requirements. However, intense training may increase the need for certain vitamins and minerals. A dietitian can help you determine your individual nutrient needs.

Weight loss supplements: Most weight loss supplements are not effective solutions to long term weight loss. More importantly, not all of them have been adequately tested and their safety may be questionable. They could also interact negatively with other medications you may be taking.

If you have questions about the benefits and risks of specific supplements, talk with your physician and/or dietitian.

SUCCESS FEELS GOOD

Erica is ten pounds away from her goal weight and now runs four times a week while training for a half marathon. The dietitian reminds her to check the Dietitians of Canada resources at www.dietitians.ca/health to see how to continue to enhance her knowledge of nutrition and stay up to date on new developments.

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DESCENDANTS of Hants and Wolfe inspect the troops in a September 1999 re-enactment of the 1759 battle in Quebec.

'Facts.' Such a quaint notion now.

On the Plains of Abraham this last month, Canada lost control of its own past



MARK STEYN

What's the future of the past?

That's to say the bones of the last few weeks as that the latter depends on the former. In 1759, General Wolfe won a decisive victory that led to the end of French rule in this country: that is what we used to call it, the "treaty" to take another word for the word, the "treaty" of North American life today derives explicitly from that fact.

Once upon a time they used to teach Wolfe at schools. I don't suppose, between diversify studies, your management class and Italian studies, he gets much of a look in these days. Yet it is still startling to discover that to observe 250 years of this transformative event would be a ghastly sight (at least, for anyone French) in the province (and now, for anyone English) of Quebec. When I first heard that the king scheduled an enactment of the battle had been cancelled on "public safety" grounds, I found myself, in effect, the notion of a warrior nation now too faint-hearted even to stage an enactment around the anniversary of a parody of Canadian imperialism. But it turned out to be true. The French was the battle and French won the re-enactment, which may be what counts. As the war artist Bernard Pons (Bourgeois) couldn't count on it, it was a glorious victory over the old enemy.

I say "separate peace" but, of course, the pseudo separation never do separate and

M. Bourgeois will end his days a subject of the same Crown that has already inflicted 210 years of domination on him. "So we were" as the license plate says, although given Quebec's notorious state of societal demagoguery, they could switch signs to say, "A British subject I was born and a British subject I will die."

In other countries, they quote Shakespeare. But in Canada, they quote everybody else. I increased up to Quebec's newest hero after listening to everybody else's response to him. The British victory's successor as go-to of Quebec, the federal government, named out to be a Wolfe in 1997's clothing, and abandoned the National Battlefield Commission to its fate. The commission chair, André Jolicoeur, conceded that it is "as or tenfold painful page in our history," apparently mostly for the wrong side. But he said a commemorative book would still be issued, and—who knows?—it may even be legal to distribute in Quebec. Apologists for the organizing group, the Quebec Historical Corps, and they might go ahead and hold the re-enactment in Ontario, which would be as funny as it gets, since of moving the venue to the garden of Buckingham Palace, where presumably it would fall foul of American Union "neutrality" laws.

Meanwhile, Michael Ignatieff delivered the characteristically bold kidnapping he's come to associate with him (since he momentarily waded off the Liberal reservation and accidentally supported the Tory). The leader of the Opposition declared that he wasn't saying he was for or against the re-enactment per se but that any commemoration of this "defeat and tragedy" ought to be respectful. You remember Lord Nelson

at Trafalgar? He put the telescope over his eye patch and said "I see no ships." That's right. He put a patch over both eyes, navy stuff in all directions, and declared, "I see no re-enactments, but it's out there. I hope it's safer and dignified."

Speaking of Trafalgar, couldn't we have opted for the resolution adopted by the British on the bicentennial in 2005? Worried that the French and Spanish dignitaries would be embarrassed at seeing their side omitted, they decided to stage the re-enactment not as a battle between Britain and the French and Spanish armies, or even between "the good guys" and "unapologetic ability foreigners," but instead between "the Red Ties" and "the Blue Ties." And just to be on the safe side the commemorative booklet referred not to "the Trafalgar" but only to "an early 19th century sea battle." It doesn't exactly fit the blood—"the Red Ties" represent every sea to do this day—"and I'm not sure whether the dying Nelson turned to Hardy and said, 'Kids me, follow Red Ties men'." But surely the same dog might have worked in Quebec: The Red Ties hitting the Blue Ties, with perhaps an O Canada "Team led by Jack Layton coming in as the last team to do all the commemorative TV interviews about how this battle establishes the O Canada "Team as the last choice of working families."

But no. Instead, General Wolfe's heroic victory is history in the relevant sense of that useful Americanization, and he's history—in a fabled outcome, he's gone, he's over, put a fork in it—he's done. John Robson wrote a splendid column arguing that not even Quebecers should be dumb enough to waste to exchange 250 years under absolute monarchy, the Revolution, the Terror, Napoleon, the Second Empire, the Fourth Republic, etc. As for France, she was happy to trade

JUST TO HIS NAME, the 2005 commemorative booklet referred not to the Battle of Trafalgar, but only to an early 19th-century sea battle.

"quelques arpents de terre" (a few acres of soil) for the sovereignty of her Caribbean colonies. How'd that work out? See the mess in Guadeloupe or the other work? (I assure, real mess, not just a staged re-enactment of mess from hundreds of years ago.)

Not so long ago, there were millions of people in every corner of the world who attended schools that taught them that the American renaissance was an imbalance of good things as opposed to the rest of the world's mess. Good for individual liberty, standard of living, constitutional democracy, etc., e.g., Canada, America, the Bahamas, India, Australia, and even a few European redoubts such as Mauritius. But then the alumni of Canada's residential schools used for "cultural genocide" (a novel concept), and on the whole you're safer in their class of the whole business. The patch didn't change it in what it is. But the present changed, and the future will be beyond recognition. A couple of years ago, the Mul on Sunday in London reported as follows:

DOY PUT A PATCH OVER BOTH EYES AND DECLARED, 'I SEE NO RE-ENACTMENT, BUT IF IT'S OUT THERE I HOPE IT'S DIGNIFIED'

"His words are dropping controversial subjects from history lessons—such as the Battle of Trafalgar or the Crusades—because teachers do not want to cause offense, government research has found. Some teachers have developed the Holocaust completely from lessons over how that Muslim pupils might ignore anti-Semitic reactions in class."

This was from a study for the Department of Education, which noted that "teachers and schools avoid sensitive and controversial history for a variety of reasons, some of which are well intentioned. Staff may wish to avoid causing offense or appearing racist to individuals or groups in their classes. In particular settings, teachers of history are unwilling to challenge highly contentious

or charged versions of history in which pupils are steeped as home, in their community or in a place of worship."

Cross the Channel to the Netherlands, different country, same direct closing of the door on relevant corners of the past. Dutch teachers are very of measuring the Second World War because "in particular settings" most pupils don't believe that the Holocaust happened. If there happens to be a Jewish child in the class, it could be a little disturbing, but fortunately Europeans won't have to worry about Jews in the school system much longer. A few weeks ago, during the Israeli invasion into Gaza, Ofer Nachshon, headmaster of Herta Hertz School in Odessa, Donetsk, announced that he would no longer accept Jewish children. The Open House Post reported that several other principals had also decided that they would no longer let Jews enroll at their schools. Once that spirit's up and running, they'll be able to teach the Second World War without any complicating factors. Likewise, those dear "Church of England" schools in Yorkshire where every student in Muslim will soon be able to receive teaching the Crusades, albeit from a Jewish perspective.

In 1854, George Orwell wrote, "The controls of the past control the future. Who controls the past controls the future." On the Plains of Abraham this last month, Canada lost control of its own past. That's less bloody than old-fashioned battles with cannons and muskets, but consequences are just as significant. Meanwhile, in Britain, public commemorations of St. George's Day, England's national holiday, have been cancelled on grounds of potential "racism." On the other hand, August Choudhury, whose last parallel distance of St. George's Day, was permitted to go ahead with a march calling for the introduction of Sharia. Perhaps, in the interests of racialized intolerance, the British should participate in every re-enactment, but this time round make sure they lose. ■

HARVARD BESTSELLERS

COMPILED BY BRIAN KETNER

Fiction

- 1 THE EMBLEMED LITERARY AND POETIC FINE P.E. SOCIETY (by Mary Ann Gifford and Ann S. Gifford) 100
- 2 THROUGH BLACK SERVICE (by Joseph B. Gifford) 100
- 3 A MERCY (by Mary Ann Gifford) 100
- 4 THE KINDRED ONES (by Joseph B. Gifford) 100
- 5 POOL (by Christopher Moore) 100
- 6 THE SWEETEST AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PHE (by Adam B. Gifford) 100
- 7 THE ASSOCIATE (by Joseph B. Gifford) 100
- 8 THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (by Stig Larsson) 100
- 9 2008 (by Roberto Bolaño) 100
- 10 THE WOMEN (by T.C. Boyle) 100

Non-Fiction

- 1 THE ASPECT OF MONEY (by Paul F. Gifford) 100
- 2 OUTLIERS (by Malcolm Gladwell) 100
- 3 ANGELS AND DEMONS (by Dan Brown) 100
- 4 ANIMALS MAKE US HUMAN (by Temple Grandin) 100
- 5 THE YAMMER YEARS (by John S. Gifford and John S. Gifford) 100
- 6 SHOCK TROOPS (by Tim Cook) 100
- 7 THE INHERITANCE (by David S. Gifford) 100
- 8 THE RETURN OF DEPRESSION (by David S. Gifford) 100
- 9 THE GREAT DEPRESSION AHEAD (by Henry S. Gifford) 100
- 10 THINGS WE BUILT SILENT ABOUT (by Adam B. Gifford) 100

LAST WEEK'S FABLES ON LAST



THE MAYOR of Storrsted, Que., plays guitar in the background, while restaurateur and filmmaker brother Sidiqi runs the town's local hub.

The smorgasbord at Millie's Diner

A Syrian-born filmmaker blew into a small Quebec town and magic started happening

BY MARC PATRIS • "I'll have to rob a 6- or 7-year bank. I'm going to the Philippines," said Raymond Yass, mayor of Storrsted, Que. Yass, an 81-year-old fellow whose ring-side voice (though it has been hoarse in his 10 years, he was holding court at Millie's Diner, where he sings on Fridays and some Saturdays) is as loud as his voice. He is a Syrian-born filmmaker, brother Sidiqi, Millie's rule, told, (Rhythmic) and would be the son of the town's Storrsted. But he is a commoner, known, compelled him to take the stage soon after Yass's wife died. It's the kind of thing Sidiqi does. A Canadian citizen, he lived in Los Angeles until 2002. After he was strip-searched twice on the same U.S. flight—his Syrian name didn't help—he decided that was enough of that and moved to Storrsted, an 8,000-person town of 1,000. He became a local hero. It was from his brothers' school Storrsted College, the local general store.

But he, whose 1991 *Silence Has No Fear* earned him an award from David Duchovny, bought the old diner, started a school and turned it into a film studio. He took over an old property store on Storrsted's main street and it was turned into Millie's, after one of his daughters. Even though he is 81, he is still going strong. He is the son of the town's Storrsted, the American (among many others) come to see him.

Millie's has a spicy, rocky Middle East-derived menu, served prepared in the

chance that in Sidiqi's kitchen. Menus vary widely, depending on the occasion, of which there are many. Along with Sidiqi's, Yass's, Millie's has a menu for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's, Twelfth Night, May Day, as well as both occasion and the occasional solo. "The nice thing about Sidiqi is that he celebrates everything," says Gabriel Sidiqi, a Millie's regular who has recently gone into business with Sidiqi.

To call Millie's a restaurant is a little like calling the Little Chapel a church. It's accurate enough, but it fails to account for the strange birds who populate it and the pretty things placed on the walls. Along with Yass, there's Bob Murray, who plays piano, writes movie scripts and channels opera when he isn't singing Millie's. There's Gordon Harding, a local self-taught artist whose seagulls, colorful, outcasted cartoon hang on Millie's walls at the behest of Sidiqi, who is a huge fan.

Then there's Sidiqi, a businessman, poet, writer and photographer who, with his wife, Eva Jack, and three other assistants, recently brought up much of Storrsted's old city center. There used to be a restaurant in town that, in many respects, gave up on it. As a border town, Storrsted (just known as Rock Island) benefited from the flow of people and goods from Canada to the U.S. As its height there were upwards of 30,000 cars

daily. Ever since the divided highway came through in the '60s, bypassing Storrsted all together, it has slowly but surely reflected on its own industry.

The center has brought nearly 300,000 square feet of space in downtown Storrsted, including a movie theater, two old banks, a hydroelectric building and a custom house. All in all, a success story of a small town, a small town, with Sidiqi leading up the whole thing—planning, supervising, and staffing the project with willing film students. Finally, an Italian restaurant, already open, a school and school will occupy the old hydro building. The great Storrsted revitalization will be topped off by the Storrsted State Circle, a recreation of Storrsted's downtown in a new, high-class style of Storrsted's future.

"We are going to bring back Rock Island, if not the glory of its past day," Sidiqi says in a screening room across the street from Millie's, where he was screening an idea for his latest movie. It's a documentary about a person who is, you guessed it, Storrsted. (Not everyone is convinced, however. "A lot of people have gone up on Storrsted," says Gertrude Kitchner, who makes it known the hard way. "It's a change, and people don't like change.")

Sidiqi's plan to turn the change has already happened. He made the mayor's plan, and created a town to make people. People come from Montreal and the States to see his film. "Sidiqi's our ambassador," says Yass, who just might go to the Philippines too. ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL. ORIGINAL-RECIPE CHANTI

The 2008 birthday of Jeffrey R. Rocco, the winner who created modern Chanti in the 1990s, is approaching. Rocco's sought to make a meal that could be consumed every day but also one that would mature well. He hit on a blend of grapes with a base of Sauternes. Rocco's goal was to create a blend of sweet and to become a matter of debate for more than a century. Rocco's decision, in preparing a blend that will reveal the recipe

Here for the AGM? It's last call for Egg McMuffins!



SCOTT FESHUK

For many corporations it's annual meeting season, marking the last time CEOs have been obliged to appear before stockholders since the economy went south. —Nancy Green

Without shareholders? I realize you're accustomed to meeting each year in some hotel ballroom—and I hope you don't mind the change of venue. I've been asked to inform you that they're moving the ballroom here soon, so last call if you want an Egg McMuffin.

As your CEO and chairman, it is my duty to report that it's been a mixed year for our company. On one hand, the financial crisis has led to the largest annual loss in company history, a 93 percent decline in our workforce and a 92 percent decline in our share price. On the other, my bonus cheque doubled.

And that's not the only good news. While results for the first quarter of 2009 show a 91 percent drop in revenue from our business units, your company experienced a record 314 percent increase in revenue from the sale of employee blood. Although this was more than offset by the related costs associated with treating all those broken noses.

Meanwhile, in hard times like these we need to think outside the box—and then go back into the box, which means the executive has become our corporate headquarters. We also need to focus on the world as it is, not what might be—such as loss of consumer confidence—and not dwell on what no longer counts, such as easy credit and our employee pension plan.

Perhaps I should take a moment to address some of the financial transactions you've all been arguing me about. Some questions: whether the fourth quarter of 2008 was really a good time to spend a success of \$1 billion to relocate my office. What can I tell you? You might think the collapse of the global

economy would mean a decline in the price of low-income eggs, but you'd be wrong. Please note the sure for management and shareholders over the last decade: the solid gold index. Now is the time to move together and rebuild. After all, that's why we're shareholders in this company. Well, that's why you're shareholders. I could not last spring.

Your management team is proud to announce that we are implementing a five-point strategy for survival.

Then again how do you put a price on a man's gold?

5. We are searching for new revenue opportunities. Are you going to finish that bush bunnies? Get a guy over here who looks interested.

4. Like many corporations, we're looking over to member laborer, Steve, stating the deal is a risky strategy, in that it involves dark forces we can't possibly comprehend. But in these trying times, our traditional reliance on ownership labor is sure



We must think outside the box—and then go back into the box, our new company HQ

1. We are cutting spending in non-essential areas. For instance, the Christmas party was cancelled. Same goes for the employee retreat, the address and the respect for basic human rights. This cost cutting extends even to the executive offices. Just last month, my office books—and I chose not to replace it, giving the company a few hundred dollars. Instead, this saving has been without an cost. You'd be surprised how much U2 wants to sit quietly in the corner of my office until I feel like leaving With Or Without You.

2. We are scaling back on executive perks. Effective immediately, the board of directors has ordered changes to our executive benefits, starting with a strict 10 percent reduction in per diem. Although, if you ask me, a certain egg on every day doesn't taste right without a side of pants boots. Additionally, I no longer have my oranges from fresh each morning by private jet. Instead, I take the private jet to Florida. It's true there are no "sustainable" cost savings, but

ing to look pretty pretty. Zeeb's never stop working and eat only berries. Finally, a use for the words in IT.

3. We are commencing to post the business symbol onto the city. Really, what you can do is

By way of conclusion, let me just say that your company has faced problems like these before. Several times in the past we have been confronted by adversity. Each and every time, your company has risen to the challenge by seeking creative solutions, achieving great success and shareholder, and ensuring our future and stronger than ever in its ability to pay our outstanding salary. So we'll probably just do that again.

Thank you for your attendance here today. I am a lot of hard work and care, a few of which are now part of this new way of thinking. I'll have to take questions and show you the lunch room is starting. Please buy your own toys. ■

ON THE WEB: Scott Feshuk on the Internet, visit his blog scottfeshuk.com/ScottFeshuk

DERRICK STEVEN WALTER

1977-2009

'Beyond fearless,' he decided to become a firefighter, and always went out of his way to help people

Derrick Steven Walter was born on Dec. 28, 1977, in Walkerton, Ont., the second of five boys to Ken and Sharon Walter. An adventurous child with bright blue eyes, Derrick "loved to explore," says Sharon. "Right from little, bumps and scrapes would spark laughter instead of tears. When he was there, the family moved to a dairy farm. Derrick and older brother Kevin, just one year apart, were "practically twins," says Kevin. Part-time in crime, they read comics, and held onto their tools, "hiding behind," he says. With a fire and tools, they once built a bungee jump off the roof. But Derrick's face always belied his glib, says Sharon. "He wore his emotions on his sleeve." Regular church goers, the Walters crossed-eyed their kids to grip, and to worship behind. In winter, Ron Africa pulled out the tractor to help stranded motorists, a habit that persisted all his life.

Every year, the Walter brothers did a "sacred Santa's" gift exchange. When Derrick was 10, he asked his parents to find that Kevin had re-gifted it was the same model plane he had given Kevin the Christmas before. Years passed before he drew Kevin's name again. But when he did, he wrapped up the plane—which says Santa, "I was gone back and forth" over time. Life on the farm "wasn't a life rule," says Sharon, but Derrick always pulled his weight. As a kid, he and Kevin pooled their weekly allowances for a second-hand car bike. After high school, they frequented the track in Friday, where Derrick was "beyond fearless," says friend Justin Kavan. He drove to "go fast without all the pressure" instead he had his share of broken bones, says Justin. At an amateur competition in Florida, Derrick "went through three handle bars in three days," says friend Chad Adams. Later, he learned he'd cracked vertebrae in the process.

Initially, construction seemed a natural fit for Derrick. He got work with a local company, and joined Rogers in an apartment above a Midland, Ont., music store. Over time, many of the Walter boys lived in the back bedroom they called "the cottage." Derrick helped with "whatever you needed done," says Justin. Once, as they were out for New Year's party, they stopped to fire friend Brad Nault's truck from the snow. Derrick was pulling the chain they were using when the wheels spun and a rock hit him in the face. Still, he went to the

party, says Justin, "great, big walk" and all. Derrick and Chad left for Australia and Thailand in January 2001. "We didn't plan a thing, just bought tickets and hopped on a plane," says Chad. They married in April, as Derrick could start firefighting school.

Derrick's right-leg group from body shakin' in March 2004 when Brad died in a senseless accident. Derrick, who inherited his pickup truck, "couldn't understand how it could happen so quickly," says Sharon. His focus shifted to family. By then, he was working as a firefighter for Bruce Power, which supplies 20 per cent of Ontario's electricity through its nuclear station on the Bruce Peninsula. That year, Derrick, then 27, met 25-year-old Robyn Hall at his through friends. At work only, the bond also "could tell him everything." In the fall, she earned university in London, Ont., but Derrick regularly made the two-hour drive. "He was head over heels," says Chad. They soon moved to together, and their first daughter, Chloe, playing hockey on Saturdays at a local rink.

Robyn found out she was pregnant on Thanksgiving weekend, 2007. She wasn't planning on having kids and was in her last year at school, but she says Derrick's excitement "changed my heart." When son Taylor was born, she says, he cried more because "in memory of Derrick's friend, they chose 'Daniel' for his middle name. Worried that "people

would think we were just getting married because [of the] baby," she asked him to hold off on proposing. Last June, two months after Taylor was born, he took Robyn to a flower garden in Guelph, and asked for her hand. The date was set for Aug. 6, 2009.

Though he made good money as Bruce Power, last spring Derrick started a cosmetic company on the side. He was planning to organize the business full-time when he was laid off in January. But, says Robyn, "he didn't want to put us in jeopardy." So when Bruce Power called him back, he went. Feb. 10 was his second shift. He was driving home on a construction road when a pickup truck hit a hydro pole, sending up sparks over the road. An assault, Derrick got out to help. He signalled to an approaching vehicle to slow down. But it kept going, crashing the wire in its underbody. The hydro pole snapped, and Derrick was directly in its path. He died instantly, at 31 years of age.

BY RACHEL MENDLESOHN



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